

Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION

'Leaders' Cop-Out...

UK Postal Strike

"If a worker wants to take part in the self-emancipation of his class, the basic requirement is that he should cease allowing others to teach him and should set about teaching himself." — Joseph Dietzgen

As the postal workers' strike progressed in its stop-go fashion, it has become more and more evident that a power struggle was taking place within the union's National Executive. Those led by General Secretary Alan Johnson were reluctant from the outset of the dispute to confront Royal Mail with effective strike action, and have at every opportunity sought to minimise the effect of the strikes.

The strategy of a series of one-day strikes controlled by the union bureaucracy facilitated cancellation after cancellation of planned strikes to permit "negotiations," first with Royal Mail directly, then through the conciliation service, and back to Royal Mail. Having reached a settlement that he thought he could sell, Alan Johnson persuaded the Executive to call off a strike even though they had not seen the terms of the deal and had only a blank sheet of paper and his verbal interpretation of the agreement to go on (see article in our September issue). Once the full details were available the deal was rejected and strike action resumed.

With a majority on the NEC determined not to compromise on the issue of team-working and not to be cowed by the government's threat to lift the postal monopoly, Royal Mail flacks set out to paint the strike as a personality conflict. The press blamed the strikes on "union militants," personified by Johnson's heir-apparent, John Keggie. Royal Mail, the Tory government and aspiring "New" Labour prime minister Tony Blair joined together in a chorus calling on the postal workers to hold a second ballot and to end the strikes. Now they have won, not because any postal workers wanted another vote but because of a convenient "irregularity" in the original ballot.

After throwing out Johnson's attempt to get team-working in through the back door, strike action resumed. A Friday/Monday strike hit the Post Office like never before. Almost two weeks were required to properly recover from the disruption, and members' morale was raised and confidence restored. More weekend strikes of this kind were in the offing and walk-outs from the floor in mid-shift eagerly awaited. But the anticipated action was canceled. We were to be balloted once again, just to con-

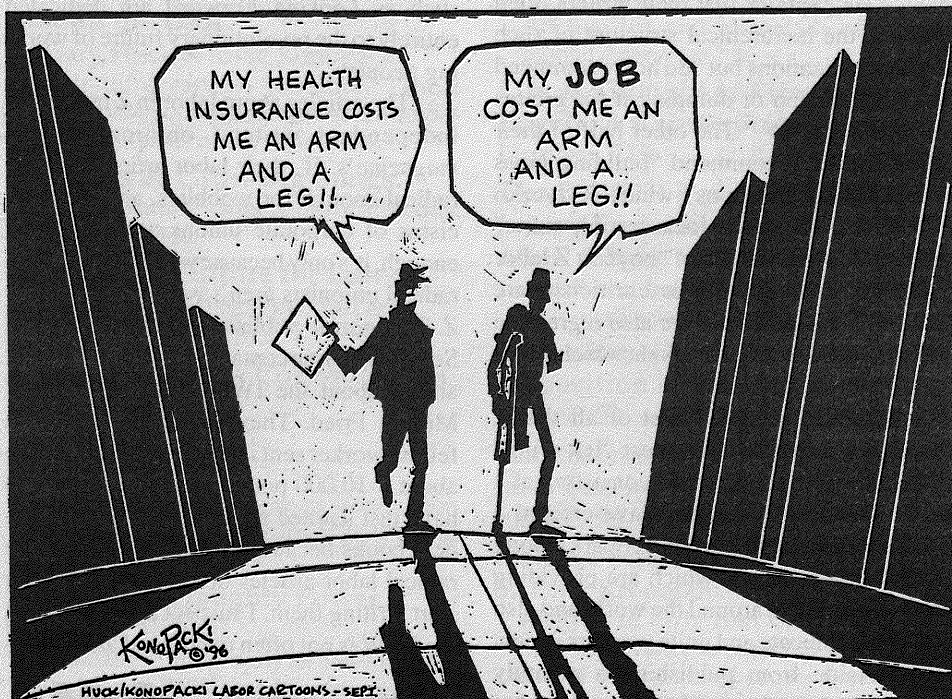
continued on page 10

We Have Nothing to Give Back

After several years of stagnant wages, unions are returning to the concessions bargaining of the 1980s. In September McDonnell Douglas workers ended their 99-day strike by surrendering work rules and job classifications in exchange for advance notice of subcontracting plans but no protection against lay-offs. Worried that rank-and-file workers might find its terms repugnant, IAM officials gave workers only a few hours to review the review the contract before voting on its terms.

The United Auto Workers, too, is returning to concessions bargaining even though auto manufacturers are raking in record profits. The UAW's new Ford contract offers some protection against lay-offs, guaranteeing that overall employment will not fall by more than 5 percent. But the contract allows Ford to open new parts manufacturing businesses and pay workers (who count toward the job guarantees) the same wages being paid by non-union manufacturers — as little as 42 percent of base pay. These workers will be required to join the union and pay to support the bureaucrats who negotiated away their wages. Ford will also continue paying new hires at 70 percent of full pay, but will no longer provide these workers full medical benefits.

So the Ford contract doesn't protect jobs, and creates a new class of low-paid union workers.. It does raise pension levels on a lump-sum basis, apparently in hopes of encouraging relatively well-paid workers to retire so they can be replaced with workers earning much less. Wages will increase by only 3 percent (plus COLA) over the three-year contract, and paid holidays will in-



crease by one day, to 48 days over three years. In the last pre-concession contract workers had 69 paid days off.

UAW officials have indicated they are willing to go even further for GM, allowing it to redefine existing parts operations as "new" products and move production to low-wage factories.

And in New York City the union representing transit workers has agreed to allow 500 union workers to be replaced with thousands of unpaid welfare recipients. Other unions reacted angrily to the deal, though they have turned a blind eye as the city laid off 20,000 union workers over the last three years and replaced them through the workfare program. "What happened here was the

removal of the fig leaf," the president of CWA local 1180 explained. "Until now there was a ruse that workfare was a training program. But now we see workfare for what it really is. It's indentured servitude."

Workfare recipients have long known this, of course. Many are doing dangerous work for which union workers would be paid extra for hazardous duties. But workfare workers receive only their welfare payments — far less than the wages and benefits the city would have to pay regular workers. And if they complain, they can be thrown off the welfare rolls and onto the streets.

On top of concessions deals recently agreed to in high-profile struggles at A.E. *continued on page 8*

Strike hits illegal firings...

Seattle Wobs holding the line

IWW workers at Lincoln Park Mini Mart in West Seattle struck for the second time Sept. 24th over the continued harassment of union workers by manager Larry Parko. The FWs had returned to work two weeks before after being out on an unfair labor practices strike for 18 days.

They returned only to face continued and increasing harassment culminating in the attempted firing of FW Monalisa Bullchild. Workers decided to walk rather than allow Parko to fire Monalisa. A NLRB election is underway as we go to press; we are confident of winning as all but one worker are card-carrying Wobblies.

Management responded to the strike by trying to use anti-domestic violence laws to get a restraining order to stop picketing at the store. Our lawyer made quick work of that bit of silliness!

Picketing resumed Sept. 28th with a great turnout of Wobs, Jobs With Justice types and Teamsters. The Teamsters were out there with us because Parko was unwise enough to name four members of Teamsters local 174 in the anti-harassment order, which really pissed them off. They have been honoring our picket and some members have joined the line.

On the sixth day of the strike, Parko announced that he was (illegally) firing two more workers, prompting our fellow workers to step up the picketing.

October 1 — We walked our lonely picket waiting for the masses to arrive and sweep Larry Parko and his evil minions aside, while assistant manager Lyle and his

scabby stepson Dave tended the nearly empty store, nervously peering out of the window (they could tell that something was up, but didn't know what). When suddenly, off in the distance what did we hear but the hearty strains of the old Wobbly classic "Hold the Fort" (OK, maybe it was the Jackson 5's I'll be there) and all those cars turning into the mini-mart — what is this, 5 cars ... 10 cars...holy shit, 20 cars all crossing our picket! And they're all wearing makeshift Wob buttons! What sort of treachery is this?

No treachery

It's the return of Direct Action Unionism to Seattle. In a joint action with the local Jobs With Justice crew, PSGMB/IWW ran the strike backwards. Over 20 Wobs and JWJ stalwarts descended on the Lincoln Park Mini Mart at 6:00 pm and proceeded to occupy *all* of the gas pumps, bought \$1 worth of gas and paid with pennies taking their time asking the scabs incredibly stupid

and involved questions wandering up and down the aisles playing their car stereos and dancing in the parking lot, washing their cars with the wind shield cleaners, and just completely gumming up the works.

They called the cops, they called the Boss but in the end all they could do was close the store (two hours before schedule, during the busiest time of the day) Parko ran around the parking lot with his video camera in a vain attempt to capture any of the striker on his property or anyone doing anything illegal but the only thing the police would do was cite one FW for Jaywalking. We blew his little boss mind, and he knows we can do it again anytime we choose.

Needless to say, morale is good and the strikers are in good spirits. FW Persak signed up four new Wobs before running out of red cards, there are at least three more ready to sign up.

— Mark Johnson



In This Issue...

"In November We Remember"

Mersey Strike Gains

Open Letter to Sweeney

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1 1

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Solidarity With Z

In response to FW Matt Rozyczko's letter "Z Labor Article Tranquilizes Labor" I feel it is necessary to respond to some of his criticisms. Rozyczko explains that "most of their [Z magazine's] articles roughly devote half of their space to pandering to the AFL-CIO labor corporation and fortune 500 company." He explains that their writers often criticize the hierarchical structure of such labor organizations but "do not recommend its radicalization or dumping it for groups such as the IWW." The other half of their labor articles recommend "building grass roots labor organizations", which, Rozyczko concludes, is a "great idea, terrible time." As a result we should now "boycott Z labor lullabies." I feel some of these criticisms are not only misplaced, but are also regressive to a struggling labor movement which needs all the help it can get.

It should be noted first of all that Z magazine is one of the largest "left wing" publications in the country, consisting of a staff of two people. They have created a growing and very important network among radical organizations which are providing alternative media around the world and also helping to educate and unite workers in new ways. Aside from publishing a monthly magazine, they also hold an annual school which teaches courses in alternative media and alternative economics and organizing methods for workers today. They have also formed a network of alternative media groups which they call the Institute For Social and Cultural Change. Within this network groups exist such as Alternative Radio in Boulder Colorado, which provides hundreds of in-

Readers' Soapbox

terviews and speeches by activists to hundreds of radio stations including the IWW-saturated Free Radio Berkeley. Z co-editor, Michael Albert, has dedicated several books to very radical ideas concerning labor. Books such as *Looking Forward* are dedicated entirely to the revolutionary future of working people.

The articles about labor in Z reflect the independent writers' opinions, not Z magazine's. If their labor articles are not radical enough for wobblies, and the criticisms of corporate unions are not strong enough, it's only because wobblies and other radical unionists aren't writing enough for Z. Z magazine publishes what they get; the September issue contained a [very, ed.] small article about the IWW Borders firing of Miriam Fried. They printed it because a fellow worker sent it to them. We now have about 8-10,000 potential new readers who have just learned about the IWW and Borders books because of Z. If we want more radical labor articles in Z somebody better start writing them. I suspect the reason that the IWW is not often mentioned as an alter-

native in Z has to do with the fact that most of Z's writers don't even know the IWW exists. At the Z Media Institute last summer there was hardly anybody there who knew the IWW was still around, and these are the working people that write for Z. Furthermore, if the grass-roots suggestions their writers offer are ill-timed, then unionists with different ideas need to write about them in Z magazine, not criticize them in the *Industrial Worker*. Alternatives will never be suggested by writers for Z if the many people with the alternative suggestions continue not to write for them.

I don't think now is the time to be boycotting Z or attacking them for what outside writers have to say about labor unions. Z is doing everything they can to help many different movements (not just labor), our criticisms of them at a time like this only help to polarize our struggle. If we isolate ourselves from every source of alternative media which doesn't suggest "better" labor alternatives we are only helping to defeat ourselves.

— Jason Justice X344085

Who Bombed Judi Bari?

On May 24, 1990, a bomb exploded beneath environmental/labor activist Judi Bari's car seat as she and fellow activist Darryl Cherney drove from an organizing meeting in Oakland, California.

They were prominent organizers for Redwood Summer, a nonviolent campaign against the big timber corporations' "cut and run" policy in Northern California. Judi in particular was instrumental in building a coalition between loggers and environmentalists, who were united in struggle against the logging companies' policies which were destroying large tracts of forest and putting thousands out of work.

Because of their efforts Judi and Darryl became the targets of the big timber companies. In the months before the bombing Judi received several death threats relating to her union organizing activities. Police never investigated these threats, and one police officer told Judi they wouldn't do anything until she was found dead.

Immediately following the May 1990 bombing the FBI arrested Bari and Cherney and charged them with blowing themselves up! The FBI trumpeted the arrest in front of the media despite evidence that the bomb-

continued on page 4

I.W.W. DIRECTORY

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace
GMB=General Membership Branch
IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate
GOC= Organizing Committee.

IU 330: Building Construction Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers
IU 610: Health Service Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Regional IWW- PO Box 241, Surrey Mills 2010

CANADA

MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB- B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB- 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>
Toronto Group- Joe Chang, 137 Roncesvalles Suite 208, M6R 2L2 416/539-0780. Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

BRITISH ISLES

Regional Organising Committee- 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 4WB, tel no 0116-266-1835. For contacts throughout the British Isles write or phone this office.

ENGLAND

London Group and IU 530 Couriers Union- BM Box 4529, London WC1N 3XX, 0171-358-9124
Oxford branch- c/o Oxford Claimants and Unemployed Workers Union, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street, Oxford
Swindon Region GMB & Research Councils IU 620 group- del: Kevin Brandstatter, 9 Omdurman Street, Swindon SN2 1HA, 01793-610707

SCOTLAND

Stevenson College IU 620 Branch- Rm 3.05 Bankhead Avenue, Sighthill, Edinburgh

WALES

Aberystwyth IWW- PO Box 17, Aberystwyth, Dyfed phone 01970 624590

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles GMB- Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.
IU630 Film Workers- Miguel Sanchez, 1748 Clinton St. Los Angeles 90026 213/368-4604 <fwo@mach1.directnet.com>
Mendocino- Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.
San Diego Group- PO Box 907, San Diego 92112-0907. 619/284-WOBS
Santa Cruz GMB- PO Box 534, 95061
IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop- 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176

UCB Recyclers IU620 Job Shop-504 Eshleman Berkely 94720 510/642-4895. del.s: Monica Berini, Liam Flynn, Charles Long
IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop- del: Jojo Mends, 1231 Second St., Berkeley 94710
San Francisco Bay Area GMB- PO Box 40485, S.F. 94140. e-mail: sfgmb@iww.org Offices: Redstone Building, 2940 16th St. (at Capp), #216-2, San Francisco 94103 415/863-WOBS
Long Haul Resource Center, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94705. 510/845-0540. GMB meets 3rd Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m., Open delegates meeting 1st Saturdays at Long Haul, 1:30 p.m. General Organizing Committee meets 4th Saturdays at San Francisco office. GDC meets as needed contact: 510/549-0358.

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop- 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. 303/433-1852

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group- George Nikas, 11 Clarendon Pl., Avondale Estates 30002. gnikas@unix.cc.emory.edu

HAWAII

O'ahu GMB- PO Box 11928, Honolulu 96828; 808/247-8584; wilcox@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB- 1340 W Irving Park Road #287 60613. 312/549-5045. Meets 2nd Friday 7 pm (call for location).

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB- Del. Rafie Bey, PO Box 8882, 21224-0882. 410/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC- Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St. Worcester 01609

Boston Area GMB & Education Workers IU 620- PO Box 391724, Cambridge 02139. del: Steve Kellerman 617/469-5162 Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Lucy Parsons Center, Central Square, Cambridge.
Pioneer Valley Group- PO Box 154, Northampton 01061, e-mail: pviww@iww.org del: Mike D'Amore 413/549-1143

MICHIGAN

SE Mich. GMB- 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548
IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop- Albert Parsons 313/769-0695
IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop- 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB- 8 N. 2nd Ave E., #301, Duluth 55803 218/723-7887.
Minneapolis-St. Paul- 7315 Dupont Ave. S., Richfield 55423-3025. 612/869-4139.

MISSOURI

St. Louis GMB- c/o Bob Tibbs, Jr., 10072 Hedge Dr., St. Louis 63137. 314/868-1472

MONTANA

Butte- Mark Ross, PO Box 233, 59703. 406/782-4465

NEW JERSEY

Cape May County GMB & Building Construction Workers IU 330- c/o Richard Neill, POB 261, Cape May Court House 08210.

NEW YORK

IU670 Socialist Party Natl Office Job Shop- 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776
Capital District Group- POB 74, Altamont 12009. 518/861-5627.
Rochester- Del: Ric Garren, 716/232-4005.
NYC GMB- Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx 10471. 718/796-3671.
Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489.

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville- Nathan Smith, PO Box 2732, 28802

OREGON

Eugene GMB- c/o Rick George, 1840 W. 10th Ave., 97402 email: rickg@efn.org
Portland Group- POB 15005, 97293-5005. email: mmiller@ordnet.net 503/650-7187

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB- POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. <len.flank@node99.com> Lancaster: POB 796, Lancaster 17603.
Philadelphia GMB- 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. 215/724-1424 ext. 1 <phillyiww@iww.org>
IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop- 112 S. 20th St. 19103. 215/569-2477.

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop- Merll Truesdale, del., 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/254-9398

TEXAS

Houston Group- PO Box 981101, 77098.
Rio Grande- Del.: Erik Carlos Toren, 1018 S 12th Ave., Edinburg 78539-5606 210/381-6786

UTAH

Salt Lake Branch- POB 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/296-7196 slcgm@iww.org

VERMONT

Burlington Branch- c/o Thomas Jordan or Deborah Ormsbee, POB 1004, Williston 05495. 802/482-4601 or 863-0571 nfnena@igc.apc.org

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop- 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.
Industrial Transportation Project- Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464
Puget Sound GMB- P.O. Box 4814 Seattle 98104-0814 206/935-9012

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop- 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800.
Madison GMB- c/o Lakeside. Del: Jerry Chernow

WYOMING

Jackson- Teton Jack Langan, del., POB 4056, 89001. 307/733-4553

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THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

Industrial Workers of the World
103 West Michigan Avenue
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197 USA
313/483-3548
email: iww@igc.apc.org

General Secretary-Treasurer:
Fred Chase

General Executive Board:

Kevin Brandstatter, Heather Harman,
Ingrid Kock, Penny Pixler, Robert
Rush, Rochelle Semel, Pete Wilcox

Articles may be submitted to:

Jon Bekken, editor
101 Western Avenue #15
Cambridge MA 02139 USA
jbekken@igc.apc.org

Women's Column Editor: Anne
Petermann, PO Box 57, Burlington
VT 05402 nfnena@igc.apc.org

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Albany Wobs picket Borders

Capital District IWW staged two Borders Books pickets in late September and early October to call attention to FWM Miriam Fried's firing and the national IWW boycott against the corporate bookseller.

Wobs here have worked with Borders employees at the Albany area store (involved in a UFCW organizing drive) to produce a leaflet which provides a list of local independent booksellers. A Sept. 25 picket was bolstered by a "roll-over" from another action in support of CWA workers' defiance of the proposed Bell Atlantic/Nynex merger. CWA's Pat Cumo and the Capital District Solidarity Committee helped swell the ranks to 25 loud, chanting marchers.

"Borders workers were very excited about this show of support in Albany," local delegate Greg Giorgio said. Capital District IWW is also distributing materials from the Philadelphia Branch's boycott packet which is raising eyebrows and gaining additional support for this growing struggle.

Another picket was held Oct. 5th to show solidarity for Borders workers in the face of a "Banned Books Week" fundraiser arranged by Borders and the Albany Area American Civil Liberties Union.

"We called the ACLU to tell them it was inappropriate to hold this type of event in view of our boycott and Miriam's firing," Giorgio explained. While the ACLU supports the right to organize, its policy is to take no position in labor-management disputes. ACLU representatives said they would not have planned the event in conjunction with Borders if they had known about the grievance sooner.

However, the ACLU refused to with-



Martin Manly picketing the Albany Borders as part of "Banned Booksellers Week" festivities. photo: Paul Poulos

Around Our Union

draw from the fundraiser. ACLU members crossed the picketline commemorating what one Borders worker aptly named "Banned Booksellers Week."

Capital District IWW is also working on another facet of the campaign, reaching out to local poets and musicians who perform in the bookstore's cafe.

Regular picketing continues across the country. The Chicago General Membership Branch picketed Borders' Lakeview store Sept. 14th, distributing several hundred leaflets before running out. In Philadelphia, picketlines have been swelled by supporters from other area unions. In Boston, Wobs report turning away scores of Borders shoppers during weekly pickets of Borders' downtown store. Silent agitators are spreading the word in the San Francisco Bay Area, while not-so-silent agitators hit shopping malls in the Los Angeles area. Articles on the dispute have appeared in the *Catholic Worker*, the *Progressive*, *Z Magazine*, the *Democratic Communique* and other publications.

But with over 1,000 Borders-owned bookstores (operating under the Borders, Brentano's and Waldenbooks names), there are still many stores yet to be hit. Let us know what you are doing to demand justice for Borders workers.

March hits immigrant bashing

On October 12, a national immigrant rights march was held in Washington D.C. as a counterpart to commemoration of the imperialist-murderer Christopher Columbus and to recent racist political attacks on immigrants. Organizers say 80,000 participated in the demonstration. They came from as far away as California (sending 10 buses), galvanized by the passage of Proposition 187 (barring immigrants from schools and social services and requires public workers to report them for deportation) and a proposition now on the ballot to outlaw affirmative action. Other buses came from up and down the east coast. New York City sent a large contingent of UNITE unionists and activists from the Garment Workers Justice Center. Labor was well represented.

Are you Furious?

In Philadelphia, Borders management continues to try to stifle the "Are You Furious?" campaign. After an embarrassing month for Borders in which Michael Moore's appearance turned into a pro-union rally and Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski canceled her scheduled visit when IWW member and former Borders lead clerk Shannon Matthews alerted her to Borders' union-busting practices, the company is doing what it can to fight back.

The company's latest gambit was to appeal my unemployment benefits, which I had received for three weeks in the amount of \$133 weekly before finding temporary employment elsewhere. Apparently, they felt that stripping me of my right to the \$399 I'd received was important enough to merit hiring Jackson Lewis, a notorious union-busting law firm, to fight my claim. Thomas Carney, the Borders VP and General Counsel who threatened the IWW with a lawsuit, flew in from Michigan to attend the hearing.

I'm sorry to report that the ruling from this go-around was not in my favor. Obviously, I think the original decision which granted me benefits was the correct one, and that I hope that the results of appeal I filed on October 11 will reflect that. It's been pointed out that the fee the Jackson Lewis lawyer charged per hour to browbeat me is probably in the vicinity of three times the amount of benefits I collected total.

Captive meetings continue throughout the chain, as Borders pours more money into its anti-union efforts. But the latest proof that Borders is wasting its anti-union dollars came from Borders Books & Music in Chicago, where the workers declared victory in an October 2 NLRB election with the UFCW.

Despite such transparent management ploys as the replacement of the unpopular General Manager one week before the election and the unveiling of a new stock option plan, the union won by a hefty margin - 28-17 - which bodes well for worker solidarity as they fight for a good contract.

In Philadelphia, we are picketing at Borders every Saturday. Community support continues to rise. I was a speaker at the most recent AFSCME D.C. 47 quarterly delegate assembly meeting and am scheduled to speak to a labor law class at Drexel University in late October. Fellow Wobbly Alexis Buss and I were featured on radio programs in Texas and California.

On the legal side, the NLRB continues to investigate my complaint. While I wholeheartedly continue to support UFCW drives at any Borders store in which that union is the workers' choice, I have decided to pursue my own case without UFCW representation in future.

As the Borders boycott rolls into its fifth month, I want to thank all my fellow Wobblies for their staunch support. Your unstinting efforts have been an eye-opener for Borders customers throughout the country who are now holding this supposedly "progressive" company accountable for the way they treat their workers.

This is a good fight, and thanks to IWW solidarity we will win.

—Miriam Fried

Borders Inc. posts \$5.7 million loss

Borders is learning that union-busting isn't cheap. The chain reported a \$5.7 million loss for the first six months of this year at the chain's 127 Borders and 966 Waldenbooks and Brentano's outlets. While sales were up 14.1 percent over the same period a year ago, Borders lost ground in its battle against market-leading Barnes & Noble. B&N sales increased 25.7 percent to \$1,033 million for the first half of 1996, according to the Sept. 2 *Publishers Weekly*, widening its lead over #2 Borders from \$104.6 million last year to \$214.7 million this year.

Workers at Borders' Lakeview Chicago store have joined UFCW Local 881, which represents 37,000 workers in regional grocery and drug stores and at insurance companies. Shortly after the organizing campaign began Borders issued a 4.5 percent across-the-board pay raise and promised to review its pay structure. However, much of the increase was swallowed by a new health care plan which increased premiums by 23 percent - and much more for some workers.

Workers also complained of severe understaffing and of being required to sign a statement agreeing that they could be fired at any time for any reason.

Borders countered the UFCW campaign by flying in CEO Richard Flanagan to meet with workers, replacing the store manager, and bringing in the union-busting law firm Jackson Lewis. In Philadelphia, Jackson Lewis fought the IWW by painting us as rabid militants who would drive the store into the ground. They took a sharply different tack with the UFCW, distributing documents showing that the UFCW was ordered to pay \$12.4 million last year to 641 former members who lost their jobs when the union agreed to let Kansas meatpackers close their plant and reopen it with non-union workers.

Borders also produced a chart comparing its wages to those paid to workers at the Osco drug store chain. Osco workers, represented by UFCW 881, start at \$1.05 an hour less than do Chicago Borders workers, and get fewer vacation and personal days.

— X342441

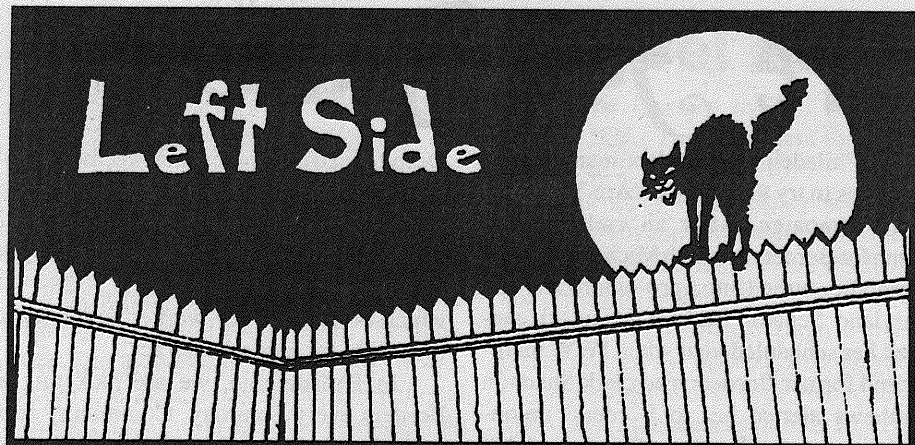
PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



What do all these people have in common: Hollywood heartthrob Clark Gable, Homerun king Babe Ruth, Late painter of Americana Norman Rockwell, Fabled Wild West gunman Wyatt Earp, and pluck blind and deaf Helen Keller? Besides being no longer among the living, they all enjoy the dubious distinction of having FBI files. Pages and pages, over half of which are still "protected." Also late talk show host and comedian Arthur Godfrey; the Bureau kept meticulous track of his divorce proceedings. They discovered that "Mrs. Godfrey was very quiet, shy and reserved whereas Godfrey had been an extrovert." A combination which often attends divorces, but which the Byes at the Bureau still found intriguing.

This was all brought to light by some law student in the Twin Cities who availed himself of the Freedom of Information Act. Some years back, when your scribe was appraised of the Freedom of Information Act, he was thinking of requesting his own files. But upon seeing the files of a friend who had made a similar request, he realized that there were better ways of wasting one's time. The friend's files consisted of pages and pages of inked-out sentences wherever someone else happened to be mentioned, and inasfar as most "subversives" are a gregarious lot and have many acquaintances, about all one can read intelligible on these files are articles, prepositions and occasional nouns and adjectives. To go to all that trouble to receive a ream of inked-out pages was not worth it.

This, of course, is the month when we in Freedomland celebrate the coming of the Pilgrim Fourflushers. They apparently spent more time studying their bibles and prayer books than learning some simple agricultural techniques. If it had not been for some neighboring Indians who took pity on them, they would have starved to death that winter. The Indians not only showed them how to plant their own corn, beans and squash but also showed them how to hunt turkeys, rabbits and deer. That was probably one of the worst crimes the Indians ever committed, suffering the Pilgrims to their continued existence. Needless to say, those Indian neighbors of the Pilgrims lived to regret their generosity.

No sooner had the Pilgrims found out they could grow their own provender and that their indigenous neighbors were not the ferocious savages thy had imagined, they started behaving most savagely toward the Indians. They not only robbed the winter granaries of their neighbors and raped their women, but took captive many of the young men to sell to the slave traders who ported at their settlements. Thus, many Black residents of Freedomland can now boast Indian ancestry.

The Pilgrims were, in fact, a gloomy lot. One radio talk show guest remarked that the average Pilgrim was about as pleasant as a teenage circumcision. It is assumed the others in merrie olde England were not too heartbroken when the Pilgrims set sail across the Atlantic, and it's a tragedy the Mayflower did not sink on the way over.

It was Oscar Ameringer, an old German socialist from Milwaukee, who remarked that the Mayflower must have been an elastic boat, judging by the plethora of professed descendants that there seem to be around today. If all these professed descendants realized the kind of people they claim descent from, they might have second thoughts.

These good Pilgrims supposedly left England in search of religious freedom, but upon coming to these shores immediately initiated their own campaign of religious intolerance. One has only to contemplate the hosts of non-conformists who were burned at the stake as witches. From these good people came the institution later known as the witch hunt.

One old Indian chief who stood up to the cross dealings of the seekers of religious freedom, naturally incurred their displeasure. Did they ignore him? On the contrary, they chopped off his head and hung it up in the town square, where it remained for a quarter of a century. Such were the good Christians who came over here to civilize the naked savage. It was they who were naked from the ears up.

Now you know why your scribe does not eat turkey on thanksgiving, but enjoys himself a mess of fried codfish instead. Remember, this is the month: Don't vote! It only encourages them!

— C. C. Redcloud

In November I Remember:

**My uncles Pekka and Matti Siitonen
Finnish Working-Class Martyrs who died
in White Guard Concentration Camps
during Finnish Civil War - 1918**

— Harry Siitonen
San Francisco Bay Area GMB

Sacrifice

In 1992, when Clinton was campaigning for the Democratic nomination, he flew back to Arkansas to preside over the execution of Rickey Ray Rector, a mentally retarded man who had blown out half his brain in a suicide attempt before his arrest. Rector had so little understanding of what was happening to him that he put aside a piece of pie from his final meal so that he could eat it after the execution.

Rickey Rector never got his piece of pie, but Bill Clinton got the nomination, and later the election. Faced with another election this year, Clinton signed the welfare "reform" bill — sacrificing thousands of babies and children at the altar of his political ambitions. Incredibly, most unions have endorsed Clinton's re-election bid...

Two Kinds of Unions

Labor relations "experts" (the sort hired to train union administrators and personnel managers) are sounding off in the press about the dangers of Canadian Auto Workers president Buzz Hargrove's negotiating style. While UAW tops negotiate in secret, refusing to let members know what they are demanding, Hargrove announced that he would not compromise on job protection and outsourcing. One pundit warned that such tactics threatened to paint the union into a corner. "It constrains me completely," Hargrove explained, "and that's how I want to be constrained" — explaining that CAW members' jobs could not be negotiated away.

The UAW negotiates in secret, its latest contracts hardly inspire confidence in the advantages of leaving such crucial matters to the "experts." Meanwhile, the ILWU Dispatcher leads with an editorial directing longshoremen to vote Yes on the new contract — which was rejected by membership vote, but which officials decided to send back for another vote. Perhaps they'll keep voting on it until the members get it "right."

The IWW Constitution prohibits our officers from meeting with employers without rank-and-filers present because the union belongs to its members...

But some business unions do do an impressive job looking out for the interests of their piecards. The October *Labor Notes* reports that SEIU Local 25 president Eugene Moats pulled in \$1.15 million last year (including earnings from moonlighting), while John Sweeney's old pal at SEIU Local 32B-32J raked in \$474,475 (not counting the salary paid to his wife from union funds).

Readers Soapbox...

ing was in fact an assassination attempt. A few months later the charges were quietly dropped.

Judi and Darryl have filed two lawsuits alleging that the FBI tried to frame them and when the plan failed tried to cover it up. As evidence they cite police photos which show extensive damage to the car's drivers seat, indicating the bomb was hidden there rather than in the back seat floorboards as the FBI claimed. Another fact the FBI didn't tell the press is that the bomb was a booby trap designed to detonate when the car was driven. This certainly discredits the FBI's story that Judi and Darryl were knowingly carrying the bomb.

As additional proof of police misconduct, the lawsuits charge that the FBI knowingly lied to Congress when questioned about the case and purposely withheld key documents in order to cover up their wrongdoing.

If you would like more information about the case or would like to make a contribution, contact the SF General Defense Committee, 2940 16th #216, San Francisco CA 94103.

— Nicky Richards

funds). The Talarico family's 21 workers on the UFCW Local 1 payroll take in over a million dollars a year. Members of Teamsters Local 817 pay nearly \$1,000 a year each to support their officers in the lifestyle to which they have become accustomed. In contrast, the IWW pays our officers no more than the average wage our members receive, though most work for free...

Losing Ground

The U.S.'s social well-being is at its lowest point in 25 years, according to the 1996 Index of Social Health. The gap between rich and poor has widened, teen-age suicide is up, and more people are going hungry...

Editor's Notebook



"Responsible" Capitalism

The College Retirement Equities Fund's "Social Choice" portfolio includes Gannett, Knight-Ridder, Sears Roebuck, Sprint, McDonalds and Kroger — as sorry a bunch of union-busters as you'd want to meet... Citizens Trust (formerly Working Assets) invests in union-busters including Knight-Ridder, Sears Roebuck and the Gap. Evidently us working-stiffs aren't part of society, and so the liberal do-gooders can invest in our oppression with a clean conscience...

"Accidents" Will Happen

Close to a thousand workers were killed on the job last year, and tens of thousands were seriously injured. Scarcely a week goes by without news of the "accidental" deaths or serious injuries of workers. If there is some obviously unsafe condition at fault, the bosses promise to fix it. Maybe OSHA assesses a small fine. Then it's back to wage slavery as usual.

Safety costs money, while workers are cheap. So easily correctable conditions on the job murder and maim workers every day. Unsafe conditions are so widespread that we consider them normal; if anything conditions are getting worse.

The bosses won't keep us safe. Even the best-intentioned government inspectors can't do the job, because they're not on the job. If we want safe conditions on the job, we'll have to create them ourselves, and stick together to make them stick. Otherwise the death toll will continue to mount...

Spreading the Word

It costs money to produce this paper, and money is something in short supply these days. Do you know someone who should subscribe? Maybe you could give a slight nudge. Have you bought a press stamp this month (ask your delegate if you don't know what I'm talking about)? If you've been doing well with your bundle, maybe you'd like to kick in something for the Sustaining Fund. If we all chip in we can lick this deficit... [JB]

Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund

Aaron Rothenburg, Columbia MO \$10

Charlie Sato Memorial Fund

Mike Long, Honolulu HI \$600
Daniel Zimmermann, Moers Germany 11
William Preston, Englewood NJ 20
Rebeca Jasso-Aguilar, Honolulu HI 10
Sara Rabie, Honolulu HI 10
Mary Christianson, Honolulu HI 50
Hajime & Aiko Sato, Wahiawa HI 1,000

Utah Phillips Solidarity Fund

Chris McFail, Muskegon MI \$25
Heidi Siegfried, Oswego NY 25
Michael Boone, Big Sur CA 25
Richard Levy, Jamaica Plain MA 50

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

Business union betrayal

The following open letter was recently sent to AFL President John Sweeney and AFL Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka:

As you are aware from the results of our struggle with AE Staley-Tate & Lyle PLC in Decatur Ill, and from all the documentation we have provided, our struggle came to a horrible conclusion. A conclusion derived from deceit, misleadership and business union betrayal...

Sadly, many of the finest trade unionists our precious movement has produced lost everything, including their membership, and our movement lost as well. Those who fought with dedication, integrity and sacrifice were literally victimized by the UPIU International Union Leadership. The end result was only 150 workers returned, under slave conditions with approximately 200 scabs joining our union. From this valiant winnable struggle, we were literally snatched from the grasp of pending victory as was the hopes of hundreds of thousands of trade unionists world-wide who embraced our struggle and touched our hearts.

You yourselves drew the line in Decatur Ill and vowed to take our struggle to Victory. At the 1995 AFL-CIO convention you promised the support of the AFL-CIO and pledged to provide organizers and resources. As a local union we did all we could to assist you in achieving the positions you now hold. We had faith in the "New Voice" and the promises you gave; promises broken. As your promises were being made, we were aware that the UPIU leadership, in a cowardly act, was undermining our struggle, and with a depleted strike fund was willing to end our struggle at all costs; our costs... The result was a loss that will haunt the labor movement for years to come. We were sold for "Thirty Pieces of Silver."

The "Struggle In The Heartland" is not over as there has been no Justice for those

who fought for their union. In January, after the betrayal, the same police that clubbed and gassed our members, supporters and families was used to remove our entire membership from our own hall by local leaders who had aligned themselves with Glenn...

As we exposed his role in our demise Glenn responded with more injustice. We attempted to seek remedy through our trial procedures and Glenn's response was to threaten us with charges for harassing those we believe had violated our rights and our constitution. Using three International Vice-Presidents the UPIU put all of those who fought on trial and manipulated the outcome of the charges we filed on them...

In April, after being assured by our International Rep. that scabs would not be eligible to vote in our local elections, the company back-paid their dues. A secret list of potential voters was developed and campaign literature was mailed to their homes and those who assisted the surrender were elected. Scabs were sworn in at the polls and in the hallways on election day by officers and the same Rep. that gave assurance...

More recently the International Union reneged on their promise to pay the court assessments that stemmed from injunction violations when former President Lane Kirkland walked our picket lines. That decision would force Dave Watts, former local

continued on page 10

Farewell, Fellow Worker

On October 2, fellow worker Ann Rosenhaft passed away in her sleep. Ann had just recently moved to Liverpool, UK with her daughter Eve, son-in-law and grandchildren because of health problems. Ann served as the Socialist Party USA's National Secretary and in other positions over her years of SP membership. She was also a card-carrying Wobbly up until her death.



Charlene "Charlie" Junko Sato 1951 – 1996

The O'ahu IWW General Membership Branch fondly remembers FW Charlie Sato. Charlie was born June 25, 1951, in Lahaina, Maui, and grew up in Wahiawa on O'ahu. Educated at Leilehua High School, UC Berkeley, the University of Hawai'i and UCLA, she taught sociolinguistics and pidgin and creole studies at UH-Manoa for the previous 14 years, and was chair of the Ph.D. program in Second Language Acquisition, dearly loved and respected by her colleagues and by generations of students from Hawai'i and around the world. A tireless fighter for social justice and the rights of working people, she was a supporter of LACASA, the People's Fund, and other projects in Europe, Australia and Japan, and an active member of the O'ahu GMB. She died calmly and peacefully on Sunday, Jan. 28 1996, aged just 44, after a ten-month struggle with ovarian cancer.

A memorial fund has been established with the IWW in Charlie's name, the money to assist women members' participation at the General Assembly. Those wishing to contribute may send donations to the IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197-5438.

I'm scheduled to speak as part of a Labor Heritage Week at Kalamazoo College, appropriately in November, when we remember our fallen Fellow Workers. The focus of the week's activities is The Wobblies. On November 8th there will be a performance called "Liberty and Order" in which Chicago actress Robin Bennett will present her one woman show on IWW activist Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. On the 13th, I'll speak about "The Wobblies: Then and Now."

From the 14th through the 17th there will be performances of "Joe Hill," a new play by Bryan Zocher. I'll be on a panel following the premiere on the 14th. That night has been declared "Union Night" and invitations have been sent out to all union locals in the Kalamazoo area. Some of the things I have to say may not sit too well with some of the union bureaucrats in the audience. The 30-member cast has promised to protect me.

Ed Menta, the director of the Kalamazoo College Theatre Department, asked me to say a few words to the cast when they began production two weeks ago about the difference between Wobblies in Joe Hill's time and today. The subject is pretty well covered in two

words: not much. But I figured he was expecting a little more detail; so here's what I told the cast:

from the desk of...

We don't seem to get beaten or shot quite as often as we once did because the present day collusion between corporate bosses, the government and union bosses has turned the class war into a cold war. We think this has been to the detriment of the working class and are always ready to do our share to heat things up.

Despite the cold war atmosphere, our members still seem to get fired, arrested and roughed up by the cops with some regularity due to their tendency to go where the action is or create their own. Our most recent martyrs died at the hands of government troops in the Philippines in 1977 and during the Pinochet coup in Chile in 1973.

We still abide by the same principles written at the founding convention in 1905. Changes have been few and far between. In 1907 there was a split over whether the IWW should advocate a labor party. Members opposed to advocacy of electoral politics were in the majority and the dissident members of the Socialist Labor Party left. We've maintained neutrality on the issue ever since. Members are free to belong to and support labor parties if they wish, but can't advocate them in the name of the IWW.

In 1989 when Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney of Earth First! joined the IWW and began organizing a coalition of timber workers and Earth First! activists, we made the only other change to the preamble to our constitution. Their car got bombed for their organizing efforts, by the way; and Judy is crippled for life. There are suspicions that it was the work of the timber bosses in collusion with the FBI.

The first part of the preamble used to read "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common...Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, and abolish the wage system." We added "and live in harmony with the earth."

So we update ourselves to deal with issues which have come to the fore since the founding of the Union. Some of the sexist language common in Joe Hill's time has been revised. "Working men" has become "working folk" in several verses of Wobbly songs. But we always recognized gender equality. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn once said: "The IWW has been accused of pushing women to the front. This is not true. Rather, the women have not been kept in back, and so they have naturally moved to the front."

From the beginning we've been concerned with issues of social equality. Our role models include people like Ben Fletcher, an African-American who organized dock workers in IWW shops all along the east coast and into the Gulf of Mexico in the '20s and '30s; Frank Little of Native American descent who organized agricultural workers in California, dock workers in Minnesota, and miners from 1910 to 1917 when the bosses' goons finally caught up with him in Butte, Montana, where they kidnapped and beat him, and then hanged him from a railroad trestle.

Several of our organizers then and now were and are Mexican Americans. It often seems easier to find class conscious folks among the socially and economically oppressed, be they women, gays, blacks, native americans, or immigrants. In the 'teens Wobblies took over the town of Tijuana for about a month in support of an aborted revolution by Ricardo Flores-Magon. Recently some of our members travelled to Chiapas to express solidarity with the Zapatistas fighting for social justice there.

Among our General Secretary/Treasurers and General Executive Board members at least over the last 20 years there have been numerous women, several lesbians and gays. At the University Cellar Bookstore in Ann Arbor in 1984 we negotiated the first contract I know of which provided protection from harassment for workers with HIV.

So we haven't changed, just updated who we are to deal with new categories of discrimination as they arise.

In the introduction to a book about Joe Hill written in the '60s, historian Howard Zinn compared the IWW with the new left of that time: "The parallels are striking... the plunging into areas of maximum danger, the impatience with compromises and gradualist solutions... the emphasis on direct, militant, mass action... the migrant shabby existence of the organizer... the songs and humor; the dream of a new brotherhood." Well, sister and brotherhood. That was 30 years ago. Again, other than expanding the gender reference, I don't see any need for changing that description of what we stand for and how we function.

In the past year we've had three members fired from their jobs for organizing. We had dozens of people arrested in San Francisco and Burlington, Vermont, protests over the attempted execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal in Pennsylvania. Five Wobblies were among 12 people arrested last December for disrupting commencement exercises at the University of Michigan when the University had the gall to present an honorary degree to the retiring scab publisher of the *Detroit Free Press*, Neil Shine. Our crime consisted of singing "Solidarity Forever" when Shine was introduced. I like to say we were arrested for singing off key. Wobblies like to sing. That doesn't mean we're often in tune.

So we're the same as the folks who were in the union 30 years ago, and 90 years ago. Joe Hill was one more. He got a little notoriety because he was good at goading the bosses with jingles set to popular tunes. So he made the workers laugh and drove the bosses crazy. And when he could be implicated in a murder, it didn't matter whether he was guilty or not. Joe was executed by firing squad, not for murder but for standing up for the working class. Hundreds of others were beaten, tarred and feathered, deported, imprisoned, shot and hanged, or just disappeared in the hands of the police for the same reason. So honor Joe because he deserves it; but don't think that he was unique. His numbers were and are legion.

So don't think that standing up for what is right died on November 19th, 1915, with Joe Hill. There will always be people ready to do that. The Wobblies will always be with them.

See you on the picket line...

— Fred Chase, IWW General Secretary/Treasurer

In November We Remember

Because some of our more famous martyrs died in November, people like Joe Hill and Wesley Everest, that month is set aside to honor all of the Wobblies who have lost their lives in struggles for freedom and justice. But they died in every month of the year, in places as far flung as Spain and the Philippines. Remember them in November, honor them year round.

• Steven Horvath: striker, killed by police. August 2, 1908, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

• Samuel Chin: died due to vile jail conditions. March 1910, Spokane Washington

• Henry Bordet: died from jail mistreatment. February 7th, 1911, Spokane Washington.

The list is overwhelming. It goes on and on: brave human beings fighting for economic justice for their class, suffering the ultimate consequence.

• William Stanley, a/k/a Robert Loeber: commander of rebel forces in Baja California during the Mexican Revolution. April 8, 1911, Baja California.

• Michael Hoey: involved in free speech fight. Died as a result of police beating. April 8th, 1911, San Diego California

• Joe Marko: murdered by vigilantes. Same day, same struggle, same place.

• Joseph Mikolash (Mikolask): murdered by San Diego police during a free speech fight. May, 1912.

Their names display their diversity. They came from all corners of the world with hopes of improving their lives. They discovered injustice and fought back. The cost was heavy.

• Roy Martin, • Decatur (Cates) Hall, •

Ed Brown, • J. Tooley: all strikers, all murdered by gun thugs. May 1912, Grabow Louisiana.

The cadence is numbing. Images of cemeteries with long rows of tombstones on a gray November day come to mind. A lone figure is sounding taps. His uniform is overalls.

• Anna La Pizza (Lopeza): striker shot by police. • Joe Ramey, strike bayoneted to death. May 1912, Lawrence Massachusetts.

• J.J. McGuire: murdered by parties unknown. July 31st, 1912, Spokane Washington.

California, Washington, Louisiana, Massachusetts: there's quite a geography lesson to be learned here. Stand up for justice and you can get yourself killed anywhere. But we keep on coming. They might as well save their bullets.

• John Smolsky: striker murdered by thugs. October 19, 1912, Lawrence Massachusetts.

• "FW" Donovan: shot while picketing. Same day, Missoula Montana.

• Nels Nelson: striker, "hanged himself" in jail, Same day, Marysville California.

Three more dead, all on the same day, in three different states spanning the continent. The Wobblies were everywhere. So were the bosses and their hired killers.

• Wallace Connell: died from a police beating. August 20, 1914, Vancouver BC Canada

February 2nd, 1915:

• Jack Whyte: shot by a thug. Tonopah Nevada.

• Jack Bradley: murdered in prison. Butte, Montana

• Felix Baran, • Hugo Gerlot, • Gus Johnson, • John Looney, • Abraham Rabinowitz: all victims of the Everett Massacre. Everett, Washington.

Seven more on the same day in three different incidents. This was class war. Other unnamed Wobblies were lost in the waters off Everett that day as they tried to defend themselves from the police assault on the ferry boat carrying them to reinforce a strike.

Dozens were never accounted for. Rest well fellow workers, unknown soldiers of the working class.

• Joseph Hillstrom, a/k/a Joe Hill: judicially murdered by firing squad. In his final message to us he wrote: "Don't mourn for me. Organize!" November 19th, 1915, Salt Lake City, Utah.

• Martynas (Martinus) Petkus: a striker killed by police. February 21, 1917, Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

• James Brew: murdered by vigilantes. July 12, 1917, Bisbee Arizona.

• Frank Little: Wobbly organizer of the finest kind, lynched by company goons. August 1st, 1917, Butte Montana.

The screen gets a little hard to read through the mist. So many dead. There's a temptation to condense, skip a few names lest the litany get boring. But these were individuals. Each of them deserves our profound respect for their sacrifices. They shouldn't get lost in summaries. They deserve their names engraved in a wall for all to see and reflect on the cost of the 8-hour day, the minimum wage, employer-paid medical insurance: all of the gains made through worker sacrifices, all the gains being eroded by capitalist greed. There may soon come a day when we'll have to add even more names to the list to recover from the losses of the last several decades.

• Otto Frederick Schmidt: died from mistreatment in jail, December 2nd, 1918, Spokane Washington.

• Joseph A. Kelly: died from jail conditions. July 8th, 1919, Seattle Washington.

• Wesley Everest: removed from jail after defending an IWW union hall from American Legionnaire vigilantes, he was taken to a bridge over a local river, mutilated, shot and hanged numerous times. (They were just making sure) November 11th, 1919, Centralia, Washington.

The bridge is gone now, replaced by one built in the '30s by the WPA. But you can still stand over the river and imagine the headlights from the cars of the upstanding citizens of Centralia glaring on the limp body of Wesley Everest dangling over the calmly flowing waters. They killed Wesley Everest. The memory of him and his dream are doing just fine.

• Ernest Holmen: beaten by thugs, he committed suicide. June 3, 1920, New York, New York

• Joe Bagley: shot by company thugs. Same day, Fargo, North Dakota.

• Whitey Clark: died from diseases contracted in jail. March 3rd, 1921, Fresno County Jail, Visalia California

• Thomas Martinez: death from mistreatment in prison. Same day, Guadalajara, Mexico.

• Frank Westings: died from tuberculosis contracted in jail. February 23rd, 1923, Walla Walla, Washington.

• William McKay(e): murdered by a company thug. May 9 1923, Aberdeen, Washington.

• Abraham Shocker: committed suicide due to intolerable prison conditions. August 15 1923, San Quentin, California.

• F.W. Weyh: died from jail treatment. March 7, 1924, Tucson Arizona

November 21, 1927, Columbine Mine, Lafayette, Colorado, six strikers murdered by company goons: • John Eastenes, • Nick Stanudakis, • Mike Vidovitch, • J.R. Davies, • E.R. Jacques, • G. Kosvich.

• Clements Chavez: murdered by state police. January 12th, 1928, once again Lafayette, Colorado

• Jack Vanetter: shot by company gun thugs. Same day, Evarts, Kentucky.

• Johnny Kane: a striker shot by a scab herder. December 15, 1936, Houston, Texas.

• Conrad Hill: shot by company thugs. December 1936, Pierce, Idaho.

• James McNerny, a prisoner since the Centralia Incident in November 1919, died from mistreatment in prison. December 1936, Walla Walla, Washington.

• Mike Stetz: striker, shot, died of wounds 10 months later. June 10th, 1937, Pierce, Idaho

• Dalton Gentry: succumbed to gunshot wounds inflicted in 1936. November 4th, 1940, Pierce, Idaho

• Jack Baevert: a "criminal syndicalism" prisoner since 1924, driven insane, died of unknown causes. 1942, Talmadge State Hospital.

The list is far from complete. Wobblies died fighting in the Spanish Civil War. Wobblies were arrested, never to be heard from again in labor struggles all over the U.S. A Wobbly died in the Philippines at the hands of government troops in the '70s while he traveled with the HUK guerrillas as a journalist. A Wobbly died in 1973 at the hands of soldiers following the Pinochet coup in Chile.

Remember them all. Honor them all. They died fighting to bring us a better world. The best way to honor them is to heed Joe Hill's words: Don't Mourn. Organize!

(Many thanks to FW Robert Rush for the extensive research which made this litany possible.)

— Fred Chase



In November we remember
All the unnamed and unsung workers
Who struggled for a world
United in peace
And free from the exploitation of labor.
Their struggle will succeed.

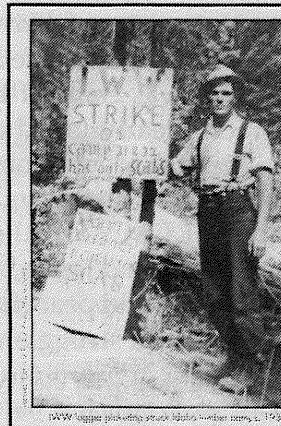
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The following is excerpted from Staughton Lynd's introduction to the new anthology, *"We Are All Leaders" The Alternative Unionism of the Early 1930s* (University of Illinois Press, 336 pages, \$17.95):

The unionism described in these essays has been called "community-based unionism" or "solidarity unionism." By whatever name, this alternative unionism was democratic, deeply rooted in mutual aid among workers in different crafts and work sites, and politically independent. The key to the value system of alternative unionism was its egalitarianism. The seniority system later negotiated by CIO unions caused some workers wholly to lose their livelihood in a layoff, while others continued to work full-time. In contrast, the Independent Textile Union in Woonsocket, the first industrial unions in rubber, and the anthracite miners of eastern Pennsylvania in the 1930s all favored schemes to share or "equalize" the work among all workers who had completed the probationary period...

The organizational forms of alternative unionism included federal labor unions, ad hoc factory committees, and improvised central labor bodies. Historians have supposed that the general strikes in Toledo, Minneapolis and San Francisco in 1934 were isolated events. We suggest that, on the contrary, these local general strikes were characteristic of the mobilization of working-class communities. In the absence of

"We are all leaders"

effective national organizations from which they could seek help, rank and filers were obliged to turn to each other and to create horizontal networks that in turn generated a distinctive organizational culture.

Numerically, the self-organization of the rank and file in the early 1930s was at least as effective as the top-down efforts of the CIO a few years later....

As this book has come together, I have been struck by the resemblance between the "alternative unionism" of the 1930s and the rank-and-file militancy of the IWW.

In the anthracite coal fields, IWW membership from 1906 to 1916 rivalled that of the United Mine Workers. Perhaps as a result, "anthracite miners continued to rely on illegal wildcat strikes and other forms of direct action, refused on principle to submit grievances to arbitration, tenaciously resisted the contractual regulation of their labor, opposed union dues check-off, habitually rebelled against the UMW's dictatorial leadership, and sustained this militant syndicalism into the late 1940s."

Individual Wobblies or former Wobblies were often involved in the local industrial unions of the 1930s. Len DeCaux wrote of his fellow CIO militants that "when the CIO lefts let down their hair, it seemed

that only the youngest had no background of Wobbly associations." Specific examples abound. Tom Klasey, who helped to organize Chevrolet in Flint, had been an IWW activist in the Pacific Northwest. In Austin, Minnesota, organization of the Independent Union of All Workers was led by Frank Ellis, "a Wobbly [who] had taken part in the IWW free speech fights," and the IUAW itself was remembered by a contemporary as "the old Wobbly, the old IWW's local." ... John W. Anderson jumped up on a car fender to become the chairperson of the 1933 Briggs Strike in Detroit, worked as a volunteer IWW organizer for three years, and later became a dissident local union president in the UAW...

A Wobbly style of organizing was sometimes evident even when flesh-and-blood Wobblies were not... Just before World War I Westinghouse workers created an "in-plant organization made up of their own elected delegates" that cut across traditional craft lines. The organization "copied the IWW by devoting itself to struggles around demands, rather than negotiating contracts." More than twenty years later, when the CIO established itself in the same plant, bargaining was at first carried on in the same Wobbly manner...

As at Westinghouse, the spirit of alternative unionism often carried over into the strongest local unions of the emerging CIO. Many CIO locals, not just in anthracite mining and electrical work, but also in the automobile, rubber and steel industries, initially opposed "workplace contractualism" in the form of the dues checkoff and written contracts... In rubber, sit-downs at General Tire, Firestone and elsewhere convinced workers that "progress did not have to await a formal contract." Goodrich Local 5 in Akron, whose 13,000 members made it the

largest local union in the United Rubber Workers, for several years in the 1930s deliberately declined to enter into a collective bargaining agreement...

The sit-down strikes in Akron and Flint, far from being planned by the national CIO, arose spontaneously from below and were initially opposed by CIO leaders... "It seems to be a custom for anybody or any group to call a strike at will," CIO representative Germer complained in November 1936...

I am talking about the character of the alternative unionism of the 1930s, not about its causation. In many communities alternative unionism developed free of any apparent influence from IWW or other radicals... I think it is clear, however, that a community-based, horizontally-bonded "culture of struggle" with roots in such epic battles as the 1916 Westinghouse strike, the Lawrence, Massachusetts strikes of 1912 and 1919, and community-based strikes in coal mining and cotton textile towns during the 1920s also pervaded the alternative unionism of the 1930s...

Because of the affinity between the character of the alternative unions we have uncovered and the tradition of the IWW, we have chosen as a title words used by embattled workers in both settings. When a boatload of Wobblies approached Everett, Washington on the steamer Verona in November 1916, "Sheriff McRae called out to them: 'Who is your leader?' Immediate and unmistakable was the answer from every IWW: 'We are all leaders.'"

Likewise, on March 7, 1932, about 3,000 unemployed Ford workers tried to march from Detroit to Ford headquarters... At the Dearborn city boundary, about 50 Dearborn police and private police from the Ford plant blocked the road. "Who are your leaders?" an officer called out. "We are all leaders!" someone shouted back. "After these words were spoken, the authorities in each situation opened fire, killing five men in Everett and four in Dearborn."

Recent articles on IWW history

Recent articles on IWW history include:

"Black and White Longshoremen in the IWW: A History of the Philadelphia Maritime Transport Workers Union Local 8," by Lisa McGirr. *Labor History*, Summer 1995, pp. 377-402. The IWW maintained job control on the Philadelphia docks for several years, building unity among workers that had hitherto been divided along racial lines. Long neglected, this important part of IWW history is now beginning to be told (look for Peter Cole's dissertation on the Philadelphia docks too).

"The IWW and Oppositional Politics in World War I: Pushing the System Beyond Its Limits," by Francis Shor. *Radical History Review* 64 (Winter 1996), pp. 74-94. Shor examines U.S. government repression against the IWW, arguing that it was sparked by our largely successful melding of labor organization and a revolutionary social movement. He refutes common historical arguments that most Wobblies went along with the war and the draft, noting the lack of any evidence to support these claims, contrasted to substantial evidence of widespread Wobbly resistance to militarism.

"Cleansing History: Lawrence, Massachusetts, the Strike for Four Lives of Bread and No Roses, and the Anthropology of Working-Class Consciousness," by Gerald Sider. *Radical History* 65 (Spring 1996), pp. 48-83 [with vigorous rejoinders by historians Paul Buhle, Ardis Cameron, David Montgomery and Christine Stansell through page 117]. Sider uses historians' treatment of the Lawrence "Bread and Roses" strike to support an argument for bringing an anthropological sensibility to labor history. Most of the article is devoted to a quibble about who knew what when, but Sider also emphatically rejects portrayals of the strike as a struggle for "Bread and Roses."

Ignoring much evidence to the contrary, Sider claims that this slogan first appeared in James Oppenheim's poem published in *Industrial Solidarity* in 1946 (years after we consolidated that paper into the *Industrial Worker*, the poem was actually published in the early 1920s), as part of an effort to portray the strike as a narrow struggle by workers to improve their economic situation. That was clearly an important part of the struggle, but every other

historian who has examined the strike has recognized that workers also had a broader vision - which is why they turned to the IWW in the first place.

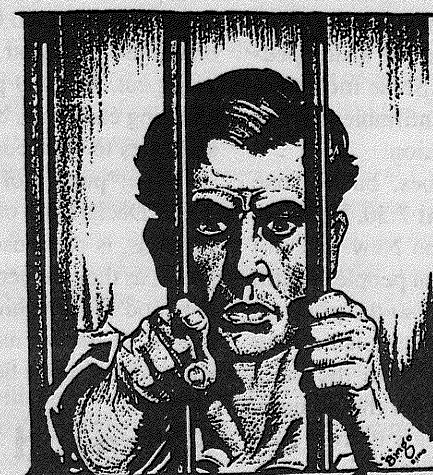
Some of the stories told about this strike in recent years are clearly wrong. For example, Sider demonstrates that an oft-cited "photo" of Lawrence textile workers marching in a "God and Country" parade was faked - a collage of a banner strung across a street and young women in a Columbus Day parade. But the debate here is more about how historians and others draw on the past to inform current struggles, however, than about the actual struggles of our fellow workers in Lawrence 84 years ago.

An article in the June-July 1996 issue of *UAW Solidarity*, "Cars 'R' Us" (pp. 2-3) notes the IWW's role in organizing the U.S.'s first auto strike, in 1913 at Studebaker, and reprints an IWW silent agitator. The *Montana Standard* (Sept. 4 1995, pp. 1, 5) featured an article by Ed Kemmick on "Butte's Battle of 1914." Butte was known as the "Gibraltar of Unionism" prior to the labor war of 1914 to 1919, but the company - backed by the National Guard, and the resources to wage a four-year battle to crush Butte workers - ultimately prevailed through a campaign of unprecedented brutality. Local newspapers called for mass executions of Wobblies, and federal troops occupied the camps for 42 months, crushing the IWW and other miners unions.

And Dick Meister's "The legacy of Wheatland" (*San Francisco Bay Guardian*, August 21, p. 19) revisits the Wheatland Hops strike of 1913, and the massive anti-IWW repression that followed the police attack on an IWW organizing meeting, in which four people (including a deputy) were killed. Hundreds of Wobblies were arrested as authorities and growers whipped up anti-union hysteria in an attempt to divert attention from the atrocious conditions prevailing in California agricultural and the vicious measures needed to keep workers in their place. Meister (co-author of *A Long Time Coming: The Struggle to Unionize America's Farm Workers*) concludes that any effort to obtain justice for today's farmworkers "must draw inspiration from the foundation laid down in Wheatland on that hot, dusty, terror-filled afternoon of Aug. 3, 1913."

In November We Remember

FELLOW WORKERS:



Remember!

WE ARE IN HERE FOR YOU; YOU ARE OUT THERE FOR US

Frank Gould

Killed by the Marcos Regime, 1977

Frank Terrugi

Killed by Pinochet's Thugs, 1973

**and all those who have fallen
in the fight for freedom**

**Southeast Michigan General
Membership Branch**

Concessions...

continued from page 1

Staley and Trailmobile, it appears that many unionized workers are continuing to lose ground. But after decades of falling wages and deteriorating conditions, we have nothing left to give. Better we should fight back, turning to direct action campaigns and industrial and international solidarity to wrest concessions from the bosses for a change.

Canadian Auto Workers strike General Motors

After reaching a contract with Chrysler, the Canadian Auto Workers began selective strikes against General Motors plants in early October, strikes which are gradually forcing GM to close other plants throughout North America as parts run short.

The CAW agreement with Chrysler Canada includes a 2 percent annual wage hike, a cost-of-living allowance covering 92 percent of inflation costs, and none of the concessions that the company sought. Paid vacations will increase from three to five weeks over the course of the three-year contract. New hires will continue to earn 85 percent of base pay, increasing to full pay over their first 18 months on the job.

Chrysler has unlimited outsourcing rights under the new pact, but has promised to offset any job losses with new jobs in other Chrysler Canada operations. But the deal does not set minimum employment levels as Ford Motor Co. did in its agreement reached Monday with the United Auto

Workers in the U.S.

An agreement with GM will be harder to reach, as the company has announced plans to close two Ontario plants and outsource up to 5,500 CAW jobs.

Grounding Boeing's Plans

Rank and file machinists have stopped the Boeing Company from transferring hundreds of union jobs to salaried positions and capsized plans for 24-hour operations, seven days a week.

In May, Boeing announced plans to combine 25 job titles to four. More than 1,060 employees would have been affected. Workers complained about the ill effects of job combinations — job loss, de-skilling, monetary losses. The real lightning rod came when the company declared they were going to convert 200 to 400 union jobs to salaried positions. The company and union agreed to do this under the guise of contract language concerning new technology.

With union leaders behind the plan, the company figured on a cake walk. But all was not well: They forgot one important ingredient — the membership!

When news of union jobs going to salary spread, workers complained. Union officials said, "You may not like it, but at least you have a job. It's better than a pink slip."

Angry workers fought back. They called the International Association of

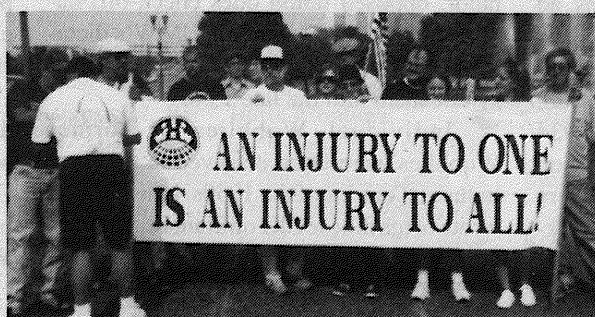
Machinist (IAM) reform caucus, Unionists for Democratic Change for help. Thousands of flyers and newsletters went out. Local newspapers carried the story of Boeing's lean manufacturing agenda. One headline read: "Boeing efficiency plan isn't union-friendly."

The union hall came under a barrage of phone calls from members demanding to know why six months earlier, they'd spent 69 day on strike if the union was to merely let their jobs be taken away.

The company was also promoting a 24-hour, seven days a week operation with 12-hour shifts. The membership, already hot, blew up over Boeing's plans.

So what's the end result? The rank and file members have forced union leaders to change their positions of allowing the company to change our union jobs to salaried positions. There still has been no change in that or to a 24 hour, seven days a week operation.

Why? Because of workers' rank and file solidarity!



St. Louis Wobs celebrate Labor Day.

Nader hits bosses' greed

When I take my seat in the Ethical Culture Auditorium at 6:45 on Sept. 29th, there are perhaps 200 people in the great domed room, although Ralph Nader, long-time consumer advocate and now Green Party candidate for president, is scheduled to speak at seven. The crowd is mostly young and white, but there is a sprinkling of grey hair and African American faces in the audience. The man sitting next to me drove 100 miles from Pennsylvania, while two women behind me are consulting the train schedule for their trip back to central New Jersey. In the meantime, hawkers for various political parties work the aisles peddling papers and buttons. Some media are present, but the only identifiable camera crew is from public television.

Seven comes and goes, but no one appears on the platform. At 7:30, Margaret Malkonin, co-chair of the New Party of Long Island, announces that people are still lined up around the block, so the program will be delayed. While those outside filter into the hall, Ralph Nader and the other speakers take their places on the podium, and the preliminary speakers deliver their talks. The best of them by far is Joanne Landy of the Campaign for Peace and Democracy, who points out the futility of choosing the lesser of two evils and waiting for a mythical "next time" that never quite comes.

By eight o'clock there is standing room only, and people are still coming. The nominal capacity of the hall is 800, but there could easily be 1,000 in attendance by the time Nader rises to a standing ovation.

Having heard Nader on talk shows, I am expecting a lackluster performance, a lecture at best. But when he takes the podium at 8:30, it is clear that Nader has gotten a dose of fire in the belly. It is wonderful to hear words like "greed," "avarice," "super rich," "robber barons" and "corporate bandits" used with conviction from a political platform once again.

Nader touched briefly on some troubling statistics. There is not a single television program, he notes, devoted to any college activity except sports. Americans' standard of living has been falling for the past 20

years, despite a steadily growing Gross National Product. About 2 percent of the population controls 90 percent of the country's wealth. President Clinton has just signed a defense bill that gives the Pentagon \$12 billion more than it had requested. In the meantime, there is no money to keep Amtrak from falling apart, repair the country's roads and bridges, and keep Medicare solvent.

The country's priorities, he goes on to say, are simply insane. We have 28,000 homicides per year and are spending billions in law enforcement to reduce that number. About 100,000 workers are killed on the job each year, but OSHA funding is being cut. 400,000 people are dying from smoking each year, but we cannot even end subsidies to tobacco farmers.

The "pursuit of happiness" enshrined in our Declaration of Independence, Nader explains, is often used to justify unbridled greed, as though there were no other path to the good life. For him, the "pursuit of happiness" is the pursuit of justice. After all, who can be happy being treated with gross

injustice, with no one caring enough to say or do anything.

By this time, it is clear why Nader is not included in the "presidential" debates. Besides being a better speaker than all three of the other candidates combined, he would raise issues that none of them want to mention, let alone discuss. With AT&T, Phillip Morris and Ralston Purina among the most prominent sponsors of this charade, there is clearly no room on that platform for the man committed to ending "corporate welfare as we know it."

Well after ten o'clock I hit the street and head for the subway. I haven't felt this good leaving a political gathering since I heard Noam Chomsky speak at the Village Gate. Maybe there is still some hope of ending the Manufactured Consent the professor described so well then.

The gathering receives no notice on the 11 o'clock news and hardly any in the local newspapers. Having heard Nader's speech, and knowing which corporations own the networks and the mainstream press, it is not hard to understand why.

— John Gorman

Betrayed by "labor" governments

The president of the British Columbia Government Employees' Union said recently that he no longer believes New Democratic Party Premier Glen Clark is on the side of working-class people. John Shields said Clark is pandering to the banking and American bond-rating interests when he says he will balance the budget by laying off up to half the unionized employees on the government payroll. Heavily backed by Canadian unions, the NDP purports to be a socialist party.

Shields said Clark's determination to cut \$750 million — half the unionized payroll — demonstrates how far he has strayed from the pre-election rhetoric about protecting jobs and public services. He said he can see little difference between what Clark is doing and what the Liberals would have done if elected. "It seems to me the Liberals would have cut the public services and acted with glee, the NDP is cutting public services and saying they are sorry."

Swedish workers protest

While the LO congress decided not to break from Sweden's Social Democratic Party, they did rally to protest its moves to the right — cutting back benefits to the disabled and unemployed, giving tax breaks to the wealthy. Danish unions have broken with the social democrats, deciding they can no longer support a party which attacks workers' interests at every opportunity.

British unions warn Labour

The Labour Party's Shadow Employment Minister recently told journalists of a contingency plan to end the link to the unions if there was a wave of strikes under a Labour government. Unionists condemned the plan.

Britain's Labour Party was organized by unions at the turn of the century. For the past few decades it has competed with the Tories to see which party can suppress workers' demands most effectively.

North-South solidarity changing course

The United States-based Guatemala Labor Education Project is setting a new course for U.S.-Latin American labor solidarity — proactive organizing drives rather than defensive media campaigns.

A union of Guatemalan workers for Phillips-Van Heusen factories presented their demands for negotiations on Sept. 2 only when solidarity organizers in the U.S. were prepared to conduct simultaneous re-tail leafletting. The union, STECAMOSA, had been recognized by the bosses four years ago but are still without a contract.

The Campaign for Labor Rights heralds this as "a new model of solidarity support. Typically, workers... unionize in response to some particularly outrageous violation of their rights. Management reacts... by firing, demoting or otherwise threatening unionists. The rest of the workforce is then intimidated. By the time solidarity activists are alerted, we are in a reactive, defensive situation which is very difficult to win.

"In the new model, the union prepared quietly for months. When they were nearly ready to go public with their petition, they alerted the U.S./Guatemala Labor Education Project [who] then ... organized leafletting actions, getting people ready to move..."

"The new model is meant to put solidarity in a proactive position and to show managers immediately that they will face concerted international pressure unless they do right by their workers."

In Guatemala's maquiladora sector, only four factories are unionized amongst a workforce of 80,000. The average wage of \$0.75 per day is only half the poverty level.

At the Phillips-Van Heusen factories, the organizing renewal attracted almost 150 new union members in early Sept. in the face of boss threats, intimidation, speed-up, pay-cuts, and discrimination.

Twenty-five workers demanded a contract by unfurling a banner in the factory and were fired as a result. One boss even threatened, "Keep a watch in all directions when you are in the street because kidnappings have occurred in similar cases."

Van Heusen closed three factories in the U.S. this year at a cost of 1,200 jobs.

Solidarity is requested. 1. Write the workers c/o STECAMOSA fax 011 502 238-0413 rdoumitt@igc.apc.org (e-mail may be in English but must have PVH in the subject line). 2. Leaflet PVH and JC Penney with Campaign for Labor Rights leaflets 541/344-5410 clr@igc.apc.org 3. Write Phillips-Van Heusen c/o Campaign for Labor Rights, 1247 "E" Street, Washington DC 20003 who will attach a cover letter and forward it to the boss and various state officials.

730 Killed at Sea

The *Seafarers Log* reports that in the first half of 1996, 730 people were killed or reported missing as a consequence of shipping accidents, substantially higher than the 1995 year-long total of 316 lives lost at sea. Most were victims of the May 21 sinking of the Tanzanian ferry Bukoba. Perhaps 500 more died in ferry incidents in the Philippines, Bangla-desh and Indonesia, on ships too small to be included in the statistics. Aging vessels, poorly trained crews and inadequate maintenance contributed to the increase in maritime accidents.

Free Enterprise

The Brazilian town of Juiz de Fora won a new Mercedes Benz plant by offering to re-route a river; build a bus terminal, rail and highway links; donate the factory site; finance the construction; and waive taxes for 10 years.

Colombian ambassador a death-squad boss?

On Oct. 23rd six European parliamentarians, members of a commission that evaluated the Colombian political, economic and social situation, will present the European Union plenary in Brussels a resolution

condemning Colombian ambassador to the EU, Carlos-Arturo Marulanda-Ramírez, because of his responsibility in the displacement of campesinos from the Hacienda Bellacruz, where many rural workers have been expelled and some even killed.

Wolfgang Kressl-Dörfler, a German Green Party member, says Marulanda was involved in the expulsion and killing of rural workers in Cesar province and that the explanations he has offered "are neither sufficient nor clear."

After receiving many accusations and documents from the Asociación Nacional de Usuarios Campesinos and other organizations from Colombia, the German representative says he now has the evidence to discuss Marulanda's role as head of the Colombian mission in Brussels.

Furthermore, Kressl-Dörfler and his colleagues, Richard Howitt from the United Kingdom, and Marlene Lenz, vice-president of the EU's Human Rights Commission, will insist that Colombian government guarantee "the right to own the land that have the Hacienda Bellacruz campesino families, to proceed to their rapid location in security conditions and to punish the perpetrators of these violent acts."

Kressl-Dörfler said it is unacceptable for "an ambassador at the EU to be a death-squad boss."

Late News: In early October Eliseo Narvez Corrales and his brother Eder, displaced campesinos from Hacienda Bellacruz, were murdered by death-squad members in the town of Pelaya, Cesar.

— David Moreno, Bogota

Unique coalition behind general strike in Bolivia

Workers from various industries in Bolivia began a general strike in early October following a campaign against a regressive land "reform" which was initially disrupted by landowners. Campesinos began the strike wave with a hunger strike Oct. 2 and were joined by the Bolivian Workers Central (COB) for a general strike the next day in solidarity.

When campesinos attracted support from some politicians on Oct. 4, their landowning bosses took over the strikes in at least two provinces and demanded that rural landownership remain a tax shelter.

The landowners received immediate concessions, but the campesinos remain vigilant against the law's totality, including an allowance for the state to "repossess" land.

Tens of thousands of miners, teachers and campesinos struck Oct. 7 to oppose not only the proposed land "reform," but also proposed changes to the Mining Code and privatization of pensions, schools and the state-run oil company.

The state threatened to "suspend" civil rights, strikers increased their actions by blocking roads Oct. 7. Over 90 percent of Bolivians say structural adjustment benefits only an elite minority, according to Bolivia's National Statistics Institute.

Canadian province privatizes labor law enforcement

Labor standards in Alberta, Canada are now up to for-profit businesses to investigate and resolve.

Union lawyers across North America are challenging the change as the for-profit investigating businesses are automatically aligned with their fellow bosses. The Canadian province claims the privatization will save them \$2.7 million dollars a year in enforcing its own laws.

South African unions reject ANC austerity

South Africa's main union, COSATU, formally denounced the ruling African National Congress (ANC)'s budget cutbacks austerity program during its Sept. executive meeting. The ANC met with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund near the beginning of their rule and have ever since shifted from communist and social-democratic policies to neoliberal capitalism. COSATU specifically opposes the ANC's call for "labor market flexibility" and "free" trade. Instead, COSATU proposes the state focus on socializing housing and health care.



General strike in Argentina

Millions of workers in Argentina struck against the state's economic austerity measures Sept 26-29. The general strike closed financial, education, and transportation industries. Some 100,000 strikers rallied in the Presidential Palace Sept 26, bringing back the relatively successful labor mobilization of the 1950s.

"The government is out of touch with the people, and we will not forgive it," said the leader of Argentina's largest union, the General Labor Confederation (CGT).

The austerity program recently added a newly proposed labor law that would give bosses more complete say over hours, vacation, and job placement, cut severance pay, and privatize union-run health insurance.

Many unions used to support the government's austerity program believing it would strengthen the economy as promised. This year, however, the CGT recognized the Movement of Argentine Workers (MTA) and respected the MTA's demand that the CGT make no pre-strike deals with the state. Many workers have recently organized wildcat strikes and occupations of supermarkets for food. Almost 20 per cent of Argentinians are unemployed.

Japanese corporations profit from workers' deaths

Japanese bosses are ruthlessly stealing workers' life insurance policies from surviving family, according to journalist Asahi Shimbun. Workers' life insurance is routinely controlled by bosses and employers claim no obligation to even inform surviving families of a worker's death, much less pay the survivors money. Japanese bosses who control workers' life insurance policies are often by default held by the corporations and by design retained for tax write-offs.

Workers are filing individual lawsuits for life insurance, and are frequently winning large settlements, but around 50 per cent of Japanese corporations in one survey still keep all of a worker's life insurance when the employee dies.

Canadian woodworkers in wildcat strike

One thousand woodworkers expanded a wildcat strike which began at the Hammond Cedar mill in Pitt Meadows to four other International Forest Products mills Sept. 25. Union workers at Interfor's Fraser Mills and Western Whitewood operations in New Westminster, Flavell Cedar in Port Moody and McDonald Cedar in Langley respected the lines set up by Hammond workers, closing down five Interfor mills for the day. The 380 Hammond workers struck Sept. 24th to press a long list of grievances including managers ignoring workers' seniority rights.

McDonalds workers organizing

The "McLibel" campaign in Britain to defend organizing efforts in McDonald's fast food outlets headed a global campaign Oct. 12 to leaflet workers:

"Do you want RIGHTS, and freedom from being constantly watched and treated like being in the Army? Do you want an end to harassment and unfair dismissals? ... Find out and demand your legal rights... build up solidarity... [and] secretly join a trade union and get others to do so as well," the leaflet said.

You can reach the Support Network for McDonald's Workers c/o MSC, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX England or MSC, PO Box 62, Craftsbury VT 05826-0062.

German strike for sick pay

Over 100,000 German workers went on a coordinated wildcat strike Oct 1 in over 50 jobsites across the country to protest a new labor law cutting sick pay from 100 percent to 80 percent.

Workers at Daimler-Benz AG, Daimler, Mercedes, OeTV, Ford, GM and Volkswagen struck without notice after protest rallies against the new law. Individual bosses are allowed to apply the law as they like, and Volkswagen is punishing ill workers with "time debts" they must work off or pay back. Daimler tried to overturn vacation and bonus time-off provision of its contracts with workers now that the new law has passed, but backed off under pressure.

Australian maritimers ban Indonesian dictator's ships

Australia's Maritime Union stopped working all Indonesian ships on Sept 18 in solidarity with Indonesian workers whose protests last summer were violently oppressed by the military dictatorship there. The 10,000 Maritime Union workers are backed by the International Transport Workers' Federation.

Garment workers step up action

The National Garment Workers Federation of Bangladesh (NGWF) decided at its August 30th convention to escalate its long-running campaign to secure one day off per week. A detailed action plan was released on 5 September to bring pressure on employers and the government to secure this basic right.

There are currently 1.5 million garment workers in Bangladesh, 80% of whom are women. There are 2,500 garment factories, the vast majority of which inflict sweatshop conditions on their workers, despite earning 97% of Bangladesh's export income and being by far the country's biggest industrial sector. Despite the enormous profits made by the workers for their employers, it is "normal" to work 14 to 16 hours per day for 7 days each week. The NGWF has been fighting a magnificent campaign since July 1995, and the membership has remained resolute despite the enormous pressures exerted upon them by their employers. But the Bangladesh government has busied itself supporting the employers, evidently because many officials have a personal, vested interest in the industry.

The NGWF has declared that if the employers and government fail to implement the weekly holiday during October, then the garment workers will, in any event, take a day off each week from the first Friday in November.

Messages of solidarity should be sent to Amirul Haque Amin, General Secretary, NGWF, G.P.O. Box 864, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Fax: (00) 880 2 9562562 Protest messages can be sent to the employers' association at B.G.M.E.A., 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Fax: (00) 880 2 813951

Chicago Five face frame-up

The Chicago 5 will be in court October 25 on frame-up charges stemming from protests at the Democratic National Convention. Activists Ben Masel, Rob MacDonald, Bonnie Torwich, Rev. Ron Schupp and Michael Durschmid are under indictment for four counts each of felony mob action.

The cops allege that those offenses occurred during the August 27 Not-On-The-Guest List rally, which started with a march from Wicker Park, culminating at the United Center where the Convention was being held. There were no arrests and no reported outbreaks of violence at the rally.

"We neither engaged in violent acts nor encouraged anyone else to," defendant Michael Durschmid said on the steps of the courthouse. "If anything, the Chicago Police Department should be on trial. But the truth will out."

He said their arrests were a ploy to stop a Festival of Life march planned for the convention's last day, when President Clinton arrived at the Democratic campout.

The five need help and support. Their defense committee can be reached at 312/486-8085 or at pieman@walrus.com

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"When workers cannot distinguish between the Robber Barons and the board rooms of our International Unions, we are destined to self-destruct." *continued from p. 5*

7837 president who lead the fight, and Ray Rogers, our campaign strategist, to pay more than eight thousand dollars each. The Company was prepared to seize Watts' assets, his home and car. Recently the International changed its position after the contemptible plot was exposed. The position that Ray Rogers must pay one-third remains.

In an effort to bring justice to those who unselfishly sacrificed so much and to the hundreds of thousands world-wide who embraced our struggle and touched our hearts, we challenged the broken promises of the AFL-CIO. This past April we questioned Secretary-Treasurer Trumka at the University of Illinois seeking simple justice. On Workers Memorial Day we challenged you President Sweeney in Madison Wisconsin when we carried the Staley Workers coffin signifying the death of our struggle before the speakers stand. You, Mr. President, met with local supporters and a representative group including former President Dave Watts. In that meeting you promised an answer to our question, in writing, as to why the promised assistance never came. Another promise broken, no answer came!

If the "Changing Of The Guard" with your election cannot breach the stifling protocol and bureaucracy that has eroded our movement for far too long, then there has been no change, no New Voice For Workers. The most prevalent enemy our precious movement faces today is the enemy within. When workers cannot distinguish between the Robber Barons of the Corporate elite and the comfort, corruption and abuse of power in the board rooms of our International Unions, we are destined to self-destruct. For the sake of our precious movement, for working men and women around the globe and for Justice for all those who fought for their union in the "War Zone," we ask you to commit to the following:

1. Mobilize massive national marches and city shutdowns for the Detroit strikers, for Steelworkers at Bridgestone-Firestone, for the Caterpillar workers of the UAW...
2. Send an investigation team to Decatur Ill and if there have been constitutional violations conducted by UPIU leadership, suspend the UPIU from the AFL-CIO until they rectify their injustices, restore democracy and provide suitable remedy.
3. Use the power of your office to force Federal investigations into the civil rights violations in the City of Decatur, Peoria and Detroit. Hold accountable the appropriate City Leaders, Police Agencies and Company Executives who conspired to violate the rights and demand indictments.
4. Use the power of your office to demand the Clinton administration drop contracts with Staley, Caterpillar and Firestone.
5. Demand that the Labor Department deal with more than 300 ULP's by Caterpillar and others engaged in disputes and jail the corporate leaders until they comply.
6. Provide Health Insurance for all striking and locked out workers through union insurance companies.
7. Tell the labor movement why the assistance promised was not afforded the struggles in the War Zone.

We ask you to move this labor movement forward and confront those who would attack working people everywhere.

Respectfully in Solidarity,

David Watts, Local UPIU 7837 President 1990-96; Walt Maus, former 7837 member; Gary Lamb, Executive Board member UPIU 7837 1993-96; Mike Griffin Local 7837; Jerry K. Farusson Local 7837; Richard E. Schable Executive Board Local 7837; Janey McKinney...

A novel of the Wobbly West

Castle Garden by Bill Albert. Sag Harbor, N.Y.: The Permanent Press, 1996. 345 pp. \$25

This novel which takes place between the late 1890s and 1906 begins with the hero being held in the Idaho State Penitentiary and pressured by Pinkerton detectives James McParland and Charlie Seringo to give perjured testimony against Bill Haywood, Charles Moyer, and George Pettibone in the 1906 Gov. Stuenenberg murder trial frame-up. Most of the rest of the book is a series of flashbacks describing how he came to be in so uncomfortable a situation.

The hero, who takes on a new name as he begins each new adventure (often the name of the last person to victimize him), begins his odyssey as an 11-year-old runaway from his comfortable New York Jewish family. On one traumatic day he is exposed to the radical slum culture of the Lower East Side, meets Emma Goldman and hears the story of the Haymarket Martyrs, learns that he is adopted and that his natural mother died while bearing him at the Castle Garden Immigration Station, runs away from home to see the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show at Madison Square Garden, and is rendered permanently mute while being robbed and strangled nearly to death. Nursed back to health and adopted by a Sioux Indian with the Wild West Show, he begins a dizzying series of adventures which lasts about seven years during which he becomes a Wild West Show roustabout, Buffalo Bill's personal secretary, a boxcar hobo, a member of a hard rock mining family in the Coeur d'Alene, and finally a boarder with Big Bill Haywood, the then secretary-treasurer of the Western Federa-

tion of Miners. In this last capacity he observes the great Cripple Creek Colorado miners' strike of 1903-04, learns of the determination of Haywood and the other labor militants of the time to form an organization which would allow them to resist the capitalists successfully and replace capitalism with the Cooperative Commonwealth, and attends the founding Convention of the IWW.

The book, while many of the stories are good and well told, is disturbing in that the hero is thoroughly passive. After leaving the security of his family, he is acted upon by people and forces around him, having no volition of his own. In the end, he is saved from betraying Haywood and his co-defendants to men he knows to be scoundrels only by the miraculous re-appearance of Buffalo Bill, *deus ex machina*.

The characters based on real historical figures — Buffalo Bill, Big Bill, McParland, even the despicable Harry Orchard — are well drawn, being complex and more ambiguous in their motives than the hero, a voracious reader of dime novels, would have expected. Wobs will particularly like the depiction of Haywood.

Anarchist Farm

Anarchist Farm by "Jane Doe." III Publishing (PO Box 1581, Gualala CA 95445), 1996. 190 pp. \$10.

This fable is a sort of take-off on George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. In fact, the hero who takes the name Pancho is actually the Leon Trotsky character from Orwell's book named Snowball. The book opens with the animals on a farm presumably in northern California taking over the running of their

operation when the farm mistress falls ill and dies. Overcoming their own lack of experience in directing their affairs and their lack of confidence, they establish a non-hierarchical democratic society which functions smoothly and encourages the personal development of its members.

Meanwhile, a group of wild animals in a nearby forest organize themselves as "forest protectors" to keep lumber companies from destroying their habitat. In that capacity, they destroy the machines that would destroy their homes and successfully drive the lumber interests from the forest.

Book Reviews

In the end, the two groups of anarchist animals along with assorted other animals and even a few human "forest protectors" join together to stop a threatened auction of the farm. They initiate the "Great Stampede," an event very like the Revolutionary General Strike, overthrow the "corporation," and live happily ever after.

I found the book in general to be a little, in the words of one of the characters, "too cute." Also, Jane Doe's depicting the enemy as "the corporation" rather than private property or capitalism suggests that it is only this particular form of capitalism, the limited liability corporation, which is the problem rather than the institution in all its forms and guises. Finally, the absence of scissor-bill mentality among the animals and the ease with which the revolution succeeds are unfortunately misleading in regard to how difficult the struggle really is.

The IWW makes a brief appearance late in the book when one of the story-telling coyotes entertains his audience with a description of the 1912 Lawrence strike, the

UK Posties Struggle...

continued from page 1

firm to the Doubting Thomases that our resolve remained firm. That was the story for public consumption.

The truth of the matter smacks of intrigue, corruption and betrayal. Apparently, when the union informed Royal Mail of the original strike ballot results as the law requires, someone Xed out the number of spoilt ballots — 400-odd out of tens of thousands of a majority in favour of industrial action. This occurred only on Royal Mail's notification, no other. Lo and behold, Alan Johnson informs the National Executive that he has legal advice from the union's lawyers that the strike ballot had been illegal! If any more industrial action took place without a second ballot, then the CWU could be sued and made bankrupt! Incredible as it may seem, Royal Mail with its extensive legal department had been oblivious to this X "blunder." In their ignorance, they had allowed damaging strike after strike to take place, costing them an estimated #100 million, and permitted British industry to suffer incalculable losses through the disruption of the post, all because some person or other had tipped out a few spoilt ballot papers. Who, when, no one knows. It just happened to be discovered just when the postal strike was entering a new phase — an increased offensive against our employer at a time when the "New" Labour Party (Johnson is an executive member and ally of Tony Blair) desired calm on the class war front to ensure election victory. Nor was Johnson finished there. If the majority on the National Executive dared to insist upon continuing the strike, then he would invoke the union constitution and call in British Telecom executive members to overrule the postal executive.

Naturally all of this was confidential, and ordinary members were to remain unaware of the realities. Fortunately, someone smelled a rat and had the honour to leak the details of this curious affair. Johnson is

threatening all manner of dire consequences to whoever is responsible for leaking out this "accidental discrepancy" in the ballot.

So there you are. One unknown bureaucrat has "inadvertently" undermined the postal workers' struggle, a struggle which was in the process of breaking free of union leaders' shackles.

Well aware that the tactic of one-day strikes possessed the advantage of minimum financial loss to members, activists also realized that it left control and coordination of the strikes in the hands of officials whose commitment to the dispute was questionable. Without the participation of the rank and file in the strike, a 'holiday' feeling would pervade and apathy would grow alongside the union-authorized strike-breaking and scabbing.

If ordinary members could not exercise for themselves the power they had when they withdrew their labour, and could no longer trust the union general secretary to represent them, then it is no wonder that the waverers and the indecisive might be expected to vote to end the strike and accept Royal Mail's proposals. Activists combated this trend. In Scotland, one branch embarked upon a campaign of flying pickets during strike days. Solid in their own office, members were able to send pickets to small isolated rural offices where management had persuaded workers that the "Employer Agenda" would not affect them too badly. Flying pickets pointed out that on the contrary smaller offices would be the first target for job losses. Their weakness would be exploited by the new breed of promotion-hungry managers. A show of strength was necessary, and the flying pickets continued in defiance of the law. Royal Mail resorted to using their private police to videotape those involved. CWU officials cooperated, issuing instructions that the secondary picketing was to cease. Needless to say, pickets have ignored this legal advice from the union.

Other forms of direct action have been

used as well. Pillar box locks have been super-glued to frustrate scab managers clearing the letters. A few scab offices have had their entrance gates padlocked, offering pickets the amusement of seeing scum-bag managers scaling 12-foot gates to get to work.

Throughout the country, there have been numerous unofficial strikes and walk-outs. Causes vary. Sometimes, as in the cases of Milton Keynes (who were out for a week) or Edinburgh the reason was victimisation of local union officials. Other times it is due to the improper use of casuals, as in Glasgow, or the implementation of work practices not agreed to locally. A number of unofficial disputes have now become official and are running concurrent with the national dispute. Many branches are demanding that the issue of dismissed or disciplined strikers feature in any future agreement with Royal Mail, something Alan Johnson is unlikely to do since he is perfectly willing to sacrifice loyal union members.

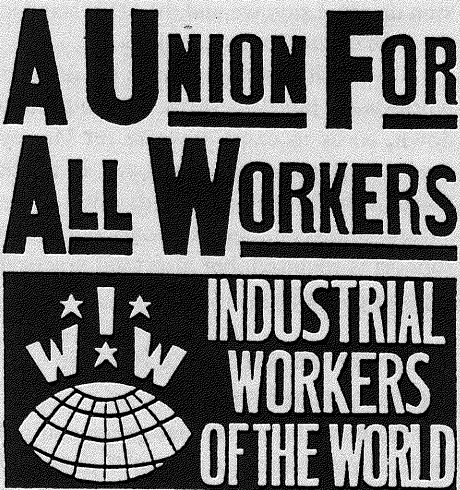
Nor have the activists ignored the wider implications of the postal strike for the union movement as a whole. In Edinburgh, a Workers Liaison Committee has been set up to share experiences and provide assistance by joint actions to all unionists or others in struggles. The Committee has so far been involved in helping water workers resisting local re-organisation, the unemployed fighting new job-seeking rules, a Nigerian campaign against Shell oil, and against closure of a local mental health hostel. Increasingly, it's become more and more clear to postal workers that we all face a common problem — capitalism and the drive for profits before people's welfare. The longer we fight Royal Mail in defence of our jobs and conditions, the more we come to understand that the established union organisation not only handicaps us in our fight, but actually acts against us. It's a lesson many of us have now learned, and now is the time for not just postal workers to endeavor to re-organize, but for us all.

— Alan Johnstone, postal worker

events and characters re-cast into fable form. Probably readers who have been involved in Earth First! will recognize many characters and events. Even this city-dwelling Easterner could spot "Judi Bear."

In closing, the reviewer suspects that it would be a lot more difficult to convert Snowball-Trotsky into a socially responsible anarchist than FW Doe would have us think.

— Steve Kellerman, X325068



Are You Furious?

IWW member Alexis Buss has compiled: "Are you Furious?: Boycott Borders Info Packet" published by the Philadelphia General Membership Branch of the IWW. Spiral bound, 55 pages, hot off the presses, available from IWW General Headquarters for \$5, but additional donations are strongly encouraged. All proceeds beyond the cost of shipping will go to the Philadelphia Branch to promote ongoing organizing and boycott activities at Borders nationally and to provide defense for fired Borders worker and IWW organizer Miriam Fried.

The book is a compilation of photocopied newspaper articles, correspondence, and documents about the IWW organizing drive at Borders Books in Philadelphia, the subsequent firing of Miriam Fried, and the boycott activities of IWW members and supporters around the U.S. as a result. It is an extremely valuable tool for organizing in the ongoing Borders drive and for countering the lies of Borders management about Miriam's firing. It can also serve as a primer for those engaged in other organizing drives. See the corporate bosses threaten the workers and the IWW. See the Wobblies respond with pickets, flyers, letters email, and celebrity support.

It's a work in progress. Updates on a quarterly basis are in the planning stages. It is an excellent press packet. It provides useful information for organizing at Borders. And it can be used to show workers what to expect when they organize, and how to combat the reaction from the bosses. A must read for anyone who wants to see what today's Wobblies can do when they get furious.

Books for Rebel Workers

Holiday Cards

We have the cat knocking over the Xmas tree available again this year, for \$5/dozen. Also a card designed by Joe Hill, 4 color, glossy cover, \$10/dozen.

One Big Union. by IWW. The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

The General Strike. Ralph Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble notes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He develops that idea in this essay. \$2

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer. by Staughton Lynd. Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$7

Are You Furious? Borders boycott campaign resource manual. \$5 minimum donation

IWW Little Red Songbook (36th Edition) 103 labor songs from around the world, with music. Includes classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, Utah Phillips, etc. \$10

Rebel Voices. Songs of the IWW sung by IU 630 Wobs. Tape \$10.

We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years. Utah Phillips sings Wobbly songs. Tape \$10.

IWW Buttons
Fire Your Boss! \$1.
Black Cat/Direct Action, \$1.
IWW Globe circled by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, \$1.50.

Workers' Culture

Juice is Stranger than Friction. by T-Bone Slim. Funny and irreverent, Slim's popular writings for the *Industrial Worker* of the 20s and 30s are collected for the first time. \$8

Canadian IWW Songbook 41 songs by Arlene Mantle, Rick Fielding, Faith Nolan, Len Wallace & others, with music & chords. \$5.

Posters by Carlos Cortez
Lucy Parsons, Ben Fletcher or Joe Hill. \$15

Crystal Gazing the Amber Fluid. by Carlos Cortez. IWW artist's poetic take on life today. \$4

Images of Labor. compiled by John Gorman
Memorabilia from the National Museum of Labor History, London - badges, banners, buttons, sculpture, paintings, etc. from the British labor movement. \$12

Images of Labor. edited by Moe Foner
A coffee-table book alternating color art work and quotes. \$10

Mad in the USA. by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki. Their third cartoon collection. "These un beholden bozos are the best class-warrior cartoonists of our time." \$12

Woodie's 20 Grow Big Songs. Woodie Guthrie's songbook for little kids. Hardcover, \$10.

RAW, High Culture for Low-brows ed. by Art Spiegelman & Francoise Mouly, \$10.

X, Pictures by Sue Coe by Coe and Judith Moore
Life of Malcolm X, \$5.

Food Not Bombs. Veggie recipes and how-to information for feeding the hungry in this society where food is a privilege. \$9

Break Their Haughty Power. by Eugene Nelson. Fictionalized biography of Joe Murphy, who was an IWW member between 1919 and 1924. \$12

Cassettes, \$10 each.
Heartland, Anne Feeney Live includes "War on the Workers"
Good News. Sweet Honey in the Rock
All Used Up. Utah Phillips
Don't Mourn, Organize! Songs of Joe Hill by various artists
I Have Seen Freedom. Si Kahn
As Seen on No TV. Chris Chandler
Smash the State and Have a Nice Day. Citizens Band
It Takes A Lot of People. Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & kids
A World to Win. Tom Juravich
Greenfire. Dakota Sid, Travers Clifford
Food Phone Gas Lodging. Charlie King
Justice. Toshi Reagon
Out of Darkness. Tom Juravich
Look to the Left. Anne Feeney

Video Documentary
Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders, by Zimya Toms-Trend. 28-minutes; veteran Wobblies reflect on their struggles and ideas. VHS, \$20.00

Silent Agitators 10 designs to a sheet. 50 cents a sheet, minimum order 4 sheets. Wet and stick.

Bumperstickers

Six bumperstickers, each with IWW Globe on left. Slogans: Solidarity Forever, One Big Union, Because Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed, An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!, Don't Mourn Organize, Labor is Entitled to All It Creates. Black on durable white stock, \$1.25 each, post-paid.

Radical Thought

The World Bank: A tale of power, plunder & resistance by Alec Dubra & Mike Konopacki
A comic book in lurid color. \$2.95

Behind the Silicon Curtain, The Seductions of Work in a Lonely Era. by Dennis Hayes. All the dirt and alienation of technomonad-"paradise," \$6.

Life & Thought of Friedrich Engels, A Reinterpretation. J.D. Hunley. \$15

The Political Economy of Participatory Economics. by Michael Albert & Robn Hahnel. A nuts-and-bolts approach to a participatory, egalitarian economy. \$8.

Opposing NAFTA, International Opposition to NAFTA. Jason Justice, \$1

Classrooms First! The 1996 Oakland Teachers' Strike. Jason Justice. \$2

Fields, Factories and Workshops. by Peter Kropotkin. Analysis of early 20th Century production of relevance to contemporary adherents of decentralized production. \$10.

Live From Death Row by Mumia Abu-Jamal, \$17.

The Disappearance of Local 717: An Underground History of Packard Electric by Benj. Sachs, \$3.
Solidarity Unionism. by Staughton Lynd.

Critical reading for all who care about the future of the labor movement. \$7

Democratic Rights for Union Members: A Guide to Internal Union Democracy. by H.W. Benson
What you need to know to take on union bureaucracy through established procedures, \$8.

Progress Without People: In Defense of Luddism. by David F. Noble. Technology is a political question, and too often workers are excluded from the decisions. A detailed analysis of technology's effects and working-class responses, \$15.

From the Ground Up, Essays on Grassroots & Workplace Democracy. by George Benello
Essays by eminent libertarian philosopher with commentaries by others, \$6.

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico. by Dan LaBotz. Rank & file insurgencies, maquiladoras and NAFTA all get attention. The need for world labor solidarity is inescapable. \$14

Power! by D. MacShane, et al. Black workers' fight to improve everyday life and transform South Africa. \$4

Stonewall by Martin Duberman, \$15.

The Movement and the Sixties: Protest in America from Greensboro to Wounded Knee. Terry Anderson. \$15

Available from IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

I'm A Little Wobbly Red with black kitten (childrens sizes 11-12 & 14-16 only) \$8. The Hand That Will Rule the World - One Big Union Grey pocket-t, IWW on pocket, workers with fist on back. \$15. An Injury To One Is An Injury To All Navy pocket-t, SLC branch seal on pocket, sab cat on back \$15. Joe Hill White t with picture by FW Cortez \$10. Employing Class Red sabo cat t-shirt \$10. Salt Lake IWW, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0514

IWW "Wings" 3" wide bullion pin, IWW Globe between sabots. \$10. Zeta-max, POB 8882, Baltimore MD 21224.

Workers' Guide to Organizing \$4.50. Guide to Direct Action \$4.50; both \$8.25. Lehigh Valley GMB, POB 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018.

Collective Bargaining Manual \$2.50. New York GMB, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick NY 13348

Out of the Depths (Ludlow Massacre) \$11.95; Introduction to the U.S.: An Autonomist Political History by Noel Ignatiev. \$7. P & L Printing, 2298 Clay St., Denver CO 80211

British Isles - Songbook (36 Edition) £4 post-paid; a selection of IWW literature is available from IWW, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1.

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Mersey dockers fight spreads

More than 10,000 demonstrators brought the northern English city of Liverpool to a standstill Sept. 28 in support of 329 dockers sacked a year before for refusing to cross a picket line.

The dispute began when dockers employed by Mersey Docks and Harbour Co, which owns the port of Liverpool, refused to cross a picket line set up by workers from a small dock manpower firm, Torside, who had been sacked in an overtime pay dispute.

The anarchist "Reclaim the Future" alliance threw its weight alongside sacked dockers and their union and socialist supporters. A massive anniversary demonstration on 28 September triggered a 24-hour strike by tugmen, with road blockades and occupations of cranes and Mersey Docks HQ at Seaforth Container Terminal throughout Monday. No vessels entered or left Liverpool Sept. 30.

Tight-lipped Operational Support Division police sealed off access to the city centre Sept. 28 during the demonstration. As the demo converged for a rally on the grass by the river Mersey, a strange bird flew high above the seagulls, trailing a surveillance camera below its rotors.

On 30 September, with protestors already mounted on the cranes and flying flags over the administration roof, the OSD began picking off peaceful protestors on the ground. By the evening 41 people including 10 dockers had been arrested and many were injured.

While environmentalists, anti-roads protestors, unemployed activists, direct action pacifists, syndicalists and class-struggle anarchists were warmly welcomed by the dockers and a high level of tactical coopera-

tion was evident, T&GWU General Secretary Bill Morris was dismayed. Morris told the *Financial Times* "We deplore the violence and unlawful action that has taken place. The dockers must disassociate themselves from those who have become involved in the dispute. The union is very concerned that people who are not dockers and were not employed by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company are embroiled."

National Union of Mineworkers leader Arthur Scargill welcomed the new allies, however, and told the rally that Morris should initiate weekly industrial actions until the dispute is settled, and the rest of the union movement should follow suit.

Andrea Needham, one of four women recently acquitted after disabling a British Aerospace Hawk trainer aircraft due for sale to the Indonesian government, was cheered as she declared the Maritime Union of Australia was now boycotting trade with Indonesia in protest at the imprisonment of two unionists there. The MUA has repeatedly held up ships trading with Liverpool.

The clashes jarred with the opening of the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool and were heavily reported on national and local TV and radio.

The peaceful occupations began at dawn, and at 8 a.m. a contingent of dockers and supporters passed through the fence by the Kelloggs Grain terminal where Port Shop Stewards secretary/treasurer Jimmy Davies was arrested. Soon 200 protestors had broken through but were penned in by Operational Support Division officers. As they retreated towards the main Freeport entrance, the black-clad OSD began arresting protestors for offences such as walking

along a road where traffic was already blocked off by police. The sight of comrades handcuffed and thrown into vans swerving along the demo provoked a road blockade near the Freeport entrance.

Motorways leading into Liverpool were blocked by police as seven coachloads of supporters were prevented from reaching the port.

By 10 a.m. a group of 40 dockers and protestors had broken through the fence at Seaforth Container Terminal and were demonstrating below the rooftop occupation of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company building. After 30 minutes, agreement was reached for the group to withdraw without victimisation. But on emerging through the gates, dock stewards Mike Carden, Tony Nelson, and Terry Teague were snatched by the OSD.

One protestor was taken to hospital by the police after being severely beaten by scabs inside the docks area, but most of the injuries were inflicted by the OSD. One lad suffered a broken collarbone and cheekbone after being spotted peeling a peach with a penknife.

After a negotiated end to the peaceful crane occupation in the late afternoon, an OSD van mounted the pavement and ambushed a group walking home, assaulting them and making arrests while declaring "Now it's our turn."

LabourNet Report by Greg Dropkin

German OTV backs dockers

The German transport union OTV has joined the growing international campaign, approving substantial monthly financial donations and industrial pressure in German ports against Mersey Docks and shipping companies trading with Liverpool. The resolution notes efforts to relegate dockers to the status of casual laborers hired by the day and entirely at the employers' mercy. Similar initiatives are underway across Europe. "The OTV along with dockers and seafarers must strengthen the international resistance against this policy which threatens our existence. Support for the Liverpool Dockers strike against deregulation is therefore, alongside our commitment to solidarity, a necessary contribution in our own interest as well."

In speaking for the resolution, Hapag-Lloyd works committee chairman Jurgen Soencksen (a seaman for 31 years) declared: "When one sees a Port in which ten thousand dockers had their jobs, where presently only about five hundred men are employed, then something becomes clear; with some despair, but also with some courage dockers here carry out resistance against an inhuman deregulation policy..."

"In 1986 for the first time after ninety years we carried out a seamen's strike... The OTV appealed to the English dockers for

"Support for the Liverpool Dockers is therefore, alongside our commitment to solidarity, a necessary contribution in our own interest as well."

support. We received this solidarity entirely as a matter of course and without any precondition, and in return I am today still grateful; it has made a very strong impression on me. I say: we and the OTV stand in the debt of the English dockers...

"A result is in sight, since the dockers world-wide hold up ships, boycott, slow down, so as to exert pressure on Mersey Docks & Harbour, the employer, in which the British Government holds 13% of the shares. In this situation not only our moral support is required, but also total practical support in reality."

Worldwide support for Mersey dockers

In the wake of the first anniversary of the Liverpool sackings, waves of industrial action are battering ports around the world. A letter from Merseyside Port Shop Stewards Chairman Jim Nolan to international supporters describes solidarity taken in seven countries.

Australia: In Sydney, Australian National Line vessels have been hit with go-slows and actions. ZIM Australia was held up for 24hrs and further action is planned against ZIM Line ships. ZIM Line links Liverpool with the Mediterranean.

Denmark: Dockers in Copenhagen, Aarhus, Horsens and Odense held stoppages lasting from 3 to 24 hours.

Canada: Montreal rail workers have operated a four day work-to-rule on the freightliner system disrupting 80% of all container traffic passing through the port. CAST and CanMar, owned by Canadian Pacific, ship through Liverpool.

France: Le Havre dockers held up an OOCL vessel for 16 hours. OOCL has a slot-sharing scheme with CAST and CanMar to ship containers through Liverpool.

Germany: The OTV Congress agreed October 1 to monthly financial donations, publicity, and industrial pressure in German ports on Mersey Docks and shipping companies trading with Liverpool.

Spain: A special delegates meeting representing all Spanish ports agreed October 3 that all ports represented by the Coordinadora, UGT, and CCOO will take 1 hour solidarity strike action on 28 October.

Sweden: In the ports of Gothenburg, Helsingborg, and Stockholm a 24 hour blockade was successfully imposed on all ACL containers transported by road, rail or sea.

Cyprus: a Liverpool delegation has been invited to Nicosia by the Pancyprrian Transport, Port, Seamen and General Workers Trade Union.

Burial of the Trouble-Maker in a Zinc Coffin

Here in this zinc box
Lies a dead person
Or his legs and his head
Or even less of him
Or nothing, for he was
A trouble-maker.

He was recognised as the root of all evil.
Dig him in. It will be best
If his wife goes alone to the knacker's yard with him
Because anyone else going
Would be a marked man.

What is in that zinc box
Has been egging you on to all sorts of things:
Getting enough to eat
And having somewhere dry to live
And feeding one's children
And insisting on one's exact wages
And solidarity with all
Who are oppressed like yourselves. And
Thinking.

What is in that zinc box said
That another system of production was needed
And that you, the masses of labour in your millions
Must take over.
Until then things won't get better for you.

And because what is in the zinc box said that
It was put into the zinc box and must be dug in
As a trouble-maker who egged you on.
And whoever now talks of getting enough to eat
And whoever of you wants somewhere dry to live
And whoever of you insists on his exact wages
And whoever of you wants to feed his children
And whoever thinks, and proclaims his solidarity
With all who are oppressed –
From now on throughout eternity
He will be put into a zinc box like this one
As a trouble-maker and dug in.

— Bertolt Brecht

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To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under \$800: \$5 per month; Income \$800-1700: \$9 monthly; Over \$1700: Dues \$12. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

- ☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

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